

# **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 3 -

**CRISIS THREATENS IN TRANSPORTATION: LACK OF BOXCARS SHUTS DOWN INDUSTRIES—FIVE SHIP LINES TO QUIT COASTAL TRADE**—Developments in the railroad and shipping industries in the last week threatened to create a transportation crisis.

The worst boxcar shortage in twenty years affected industry throughout the country, with some flour mills closing and other factories curtailing production because of the lack of transportation.

Simultaneously the Maritime Commission withdrew from the coastwise steamship trade on the Atlantic Coast, and five steamship companies that had acted as general agents in this financially unprofitable operation announced embargos on coastwise freight and began laying off employees.

Failure of the Government to solve the critical domestic shipping situation, or to achieve a balance between rail and water transport has been responsible in large part for an anomalous situation in which there is a boxcar shortage of 20,000 cars daily and at the same time a dying domestic shipping industry that could relieve the railroads of a considerable burden.

-----

**WORLD FOOD GAIN 'SLIGHT' DESPITE 7% OUTPUT RISE**—Washington—AP—The world food situation is only slightly better than last year in spite of a 7 percent increase in production, the Department of Agriculture reported tonight.

Serious shortages continue in Continental Europe, particularly in Rumania, Germany, Austria, Italy and the Soviet Union, the survey showed. The Far East is similarly beset. In several countries the present low level of rations will have to be severely reduced unless large imports are received before the next harvest," the department warned.

Looking beyond present supplies, the survey continued, the condition of fall-sown crops in several European countries and in North Africa is somewhat lower than at this time last year. Severe winter weather in several Western European countries, too, is reported to have caused serious damage to winter grains and oilseed crops.

-----

**SNOW IN THE WEST A BOON TO WHEAT: OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER CROP BRIGHTENED AS DRY SURFACE SOIL CONDITIONS END**—The outlook for the domestic winter wheat crop was brightened considerably last week by the snow in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri that have been complaining of dry surface soil conditions recently.

Returns indicate that the dry spell as a whole failed to result in any damage of consequence except possibly in a small section in Oklahoma. As March is normally a period of heavier precipitation than during the winter months, traders feel confident that the crop has still a good to excellent chance of returning a record yield.

-----

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 3 -

WORLD SUPPLIES OF SUGAR UP 10%: PROBABLE STRINGENT SCARCITY WILL BE ENDED BY EARLY 1948, SURVEY REVEALS-World supplies of sugar in 1947 are expected to be about 10 percent larger than in 1946 when most of North America and Western Europe consumed only 65 to 75 percent as much per capita as prewar levels, the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations reports in a study of world food conditions.

World production in the 1946-47 season is expected to total close to 30 million short tons, raw value, compared with 26.7 million tons in the previous year.

If production in 1947-48 continues the upward trend started last season, it is probable that the world stringent sugar scarcity will be terminated by early 1948, the report states.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 3 -

MARGIN REQUIREMENTS ON GRAIN RISE 50% TO 100%-Chicago-The Board of Governors of the Chicago Board of Trade Clearing Corp. has increased commission house margin requirements on some grains 50% to 100%, effective on clearing reports today.

The margin rate was increased from 10 cents per bushel to 20 cents on wheat, from 6 cents to 12 cents on corn and from 4 cents to 6 cents on oats.

No revision was made on margin requirements on barley and lard.

- - - - -

From N.Y. Herald Tribune, March 3 -

THANKS U.S. FOR FOOD: ROMANIA MINISTER OF HEALTH ACTS TO DISTRIBUTE IT WITHOUT BIAS-Bucharest-Mrs. Florica Bagdasar, Minister of Health, yesterday thanked the American people for their recent gift of food to Romania.

Speaking at a meeting sponsored by the American and Romanian Red Cross societies and government agencies, Mrs. Bagdasar appealed for cooperation in distribution of the 7,000 tons of supplies which President Truman on Feb. 17 ordered diverted from the American Army to meet Romania's food crisis.

"As the Americans understood our plight, so let us Romanians satisfy the American desire understandingly and distribute this food without any political, racial or any other discrimination," she said.

- - - - -

From Baltimore Sun, March 3 -

DROP IN MEAT PRICES SEEN: DECLINE IN FALL FORECAST BY U.S. AGENCY-Washington-The Agriculture Department tonight renewed its forecast that some meat prices will drop by fall. Prices of hogs and lambs are expected to continue near current levels it said, but prices of bettergrade slaughter cattle probably will decline at least moderately.

Reporting a steady decline in the purchasing power of salary and wage earners during the past several months, the department said "this and other important economic forces suggest a downturn in general business activity during the latter part of 1947" and a weakened demand for meats.

Prospects still point, the department said, to a larger output of meat this year than last, with beef constituting a larger than usual proportion of the total supply during the spring and summer.

- - - - -



From St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Feb. 21 -

**DONNELLY CRITICAL OF SOIL AGENCIES' RIVALRY IN STATE; OVERLAPPING OF BUREAUS IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED AT BASIN MEETING** - Topeka, Kans. - Gov. Phil M. Donnelly (Dem.) of Missouri was joined by Gov. Val Peterson (Rep) of Nebraska in critical interrogations concerning the United States Department of Agriculture's soil conservation work, at a meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee yesterday.

It was brought out, in questioning of the Agriculture Department representative in the committee, Gladwin E. Young of Lincoln, Neb., by Donnelly, Peterson and other committee members, that there is overlapping of three rival programs for soil conservation within Young's department. Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, committee chairman and Army Division Engineer, conceded that there was overlapping.

Donnelly declared there was no question but that this multiplication of activity existed, and called on Young to quit distributing maps, such as Young showed here today, that represented only one of the programs, that of the Soil Conservation Service. The other programs are a phase of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and a special departmental flood control program.

- - - -

From Salt Lake City(Utah) Tribune, Feb. 18 -

**SHEEP GROUP HITS HIKE IN GRAZING FEE** - The National Wool Growers' Association will fight an increase of 3c per animal unit month in grazing fees as announced Saturday by Secretary of Interior J. A. Krug, said J. Melvin Jones, secretary.

Mr. Jones said Secretary Krug had notified the public lands committees of the house and senate; Sylvan J. Pauly, Deer Lodge, Mont., president of the National Wool Growers' Assn., and the president of the American National Livestock Assn. of the increase from 5c to 8c per animal unit month effective immediately.

"Just what action N W G A will take in opposing the increase has not yet been determined," Mr. Jones said.

- - - -

From Los Angeles (Calif.) Times, Feb. 21 -

**SPARE WEEDS AS EROSION AID, SOIL MAN URGES** - Ontario - The lowly weed, heretofore held a pest, came into its own today when J. M. Aime, secretary of the Cucamonga Mountain View Soil Conservation District, issued a plea to encourage its growth.

Stressing its value as a wind erosion preventive, Aime declared that weeds and natural grasses have formed the best cover crops this year and related that they "are the result of allowing the weeds to produce seed before cultivation."

"Shallow cultivation," Aime pointed out, "leaves the cover crop and prunings on the surface to act as a mulch and prevents the soil from blowing away."

- - - -

From Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Feb. 21 -

**TAR HEELS SEEK FERTILIZER AID; CONGRESSMEN WIRE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES FOR MORE FERTILIZER INGREDIENTS** - Washington - The North Carolina delegation in Congress, acting today to relieve a serious fertilizer shortage, telegraphed Canadian authorities urging the granting of priorities on ammonium nitrate shipments from that country to the United States.

The Tar Heels have already specifically suggested that this basic material for fertilizer production be given the same priority status as newsprint.

They advised B. S. Liberty, Canadian transportation controller, that such action is needed to correct "an extreme and critical shortage of ammonium nitrate so that North Carolina can join in relieving the world food shortage."

North Carolina is the nation's biggest user of commercial fertilizer.

From Little Rock Arkansas Gazette, Feb. 20 -

**DEALERS LACK SMALL FARM EQUIPMENT** - The plight of 150,000 Arkansas farmers who cannot afford mechanized equipment and are unable to find horse-drawn machinery was described for members of the Arkansas Retail Hardware and Implement Dealers Association yesterday by Henry Franklin of the Franklin Hardware Company of Jonesboro.

Mr. Franklin spoke during a discussion of dealers' problems at the concluding session of the association.

He said one of the principal problems of the small retailer is that of finding horse-drawn equipment for small farmers. He said manufacturers who formerly supplied such items are unable to procure materials which have been diverted to producers of mechanized equipment.

From Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, Feb. 23 -

**HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE** - Editorial - The specter of hoof-and-mouth disease has been trotted out so often as an argument against Argentine beef importation that in some quarters it is regarded as a stalking horse by cattle interests to prevent foreign competition.

Now the disease, resulting from the importation of Brazilian cattle, is raging in Mexico. It would be unfortunate if past cries of what some regard as "wolf, wolf" were to minimize the seriousness of the current outbreak.

Hoof-and-mouth disease is among the gravest of animal diseases. It spreads quickly and can be stamped out only by slaughter of infected animals. The 1924 California outbreak necessitated the slaughter of 131 thousand animals. In the seven outbreaks since 1900, the cost to the nation from this source has been more than 200 million dollars.

It would be a mistake if distance from the outbreak lulled the Midwest into a false feeling of security.

From Montgomery (Ala) Advertiser, Feb. 24 -

**CHEAPER FOOD NOT IN SIGHT** - Editorial - Instead of the appreciable decline in food costs promised a few weeks ago by government economists, we may as well make up our minds to a considerable period of continuing high food costs. A four per cent drop in farm prices during January failed to register at all at the consumer's end of the food counter as predicted by experts in the Agriculture Department.



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 3 -

**CRISIS THREATENS IN TRANSPORTATION: LACK OF BOXCARS SHUTS DOWN INDUSTRIES—FIVE SHIP LINES TO QUIT COASTAL TRADE**—Developments in the railroad and shipping industries in the last week threatened to create a transportation crisis.

The worst boxcar shortage in twenty years affected industry throughout the country, with some flour mills closing and other factories curtailing production because of the lack of transportation.

Simultaneously the Maritime Commission withdrew from the coastwise steamship trade on the Atlantic Coast, and five steamship companies that had acted as general agents in this financially unprofitable operation announced embargos on coastwise freight and began laying off employees.

Failure of the Government to solve the critical domestic shipping situation, or to achieve a balance between rail and water transport has been responsible in large part for an anomalous situation in which there is a boxcar shortage of 20,000 cars daily and at the same time a dying domestic shipping industry that could relieve the railroads of a considerable burden.

- - - -

**WORLD FOOD GAIN 'SLIGHT' DESPITE 7% OUTPUT RISE**—Washington—AP—The world food situation is only slightly better than last year in spite of a 7 percent increase in production, the Department of Agriculture reported tonight.

Serious shortages continue in Continental Europe, particularly in Rumania, Germany, Austria, Italy and the Soviet Union, the survey showed. The Far East is similarly beset. In several countries the present low level of rations will have to be severely reduced unless large imports are received before the next harvest," the department warned.

Looking beyond present supplies, the survey continued, the condition of fall-sown crops in several European countries and in North Africa is somewhat lower than at this time last year. Severe winter weather in several western European countries, too, is reported to have caused serious damage to winter grains and oilseed crops.

- - - -

**SNOW IN THE WEST A BOON TO WHEAT: OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER CROP BRIGHTENED AS DRY SURFACE SOIL CONDITIONS END**—The outlook for the domestic winter wheat crop was brightened considerably last week by the snow in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri that have been complaining of dry surface soil conditions recently.

Returns indicate that the dry spell as a whole failed to result in any damage of consequence except possibly in a small section in Oklahoma. As March is normally a period of heavier precipitation than during the winter months, traders feel confident that the crop has still a good to excellent chance of returning a record yield.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 3 -

WORLD SUPPLIES OF SUGAR UP 10%: PROBABLE STRINGENT SCARCITY WILL BE ENDED BY EARLY 1948, SURVEY REVEALS-World supplies of sugar in 1947 are expected to be about 10 percent larger than in 1946 when most of North America and Western Europe consumed only 65 to 75 percent as much per capita as prewar levels, the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations reports in a study of world food conditions.

World production in the 1946-47 season is expected to total close to 30 million short tons, raw value, compared with 26.7 million tons in the previous year.

If production in 1947-48 continues the upward trend started last season, it is probable that the world stringent sugar scarcity will be terminated by early 1948, the report states.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 3 -

MARGIN REQUIREMENTS ON GRAIN RISE 50% TO 100%-Chicago-The Board of Governors of the Chicago Board of Trade Clearing Corp. has increased commission house margin requirements on some grains 50% to 100%, effective on clearing reports today.

The margin rate was increased from 10 cents per bushel to 20 cents on wheat, from 6 cents to 12 cents on corn and from 4 cents to 6 cents on oats.

No revision was made on margin requirements on barley and lard.

- - - -

From N.Y. Herald Tribune, March 3 -

THANKS U.S. FOR FOOD: ROMANIA MINISTER OF HEALTH ACTS TO DISTRIBUTE IT WITHOUT BIAS-Bucharest-Mrs. Florica Bagdasar, Minister of Health, yesterday thanked the American people for their recent gift of food to Romania.

Speaking at a meeting sponsored by the American and Romanian Red Cross societies and government agencies, Mrs. Bagdasar appealed for cooperation in distribution of the 7,000 tons of supplies which President Truman on Feb. 17 ordered diverted from the American Army to meet Romania's food crisis.

"As the Americans understood our plight, so let us Romanians satisfy the American desire understandingly and distribute this food without any political, racial or any other discrimination," she said.

- - - -

From Baltimore Sun, March 3 -

DROP IN MEAT PRICES SEEN: DECLINE IN FALL FORECAST BY U.S. AGENCY-Washington-The Agriculture Department tonight renewed its forecast that some meat prices will drop by fall. Prices of hogs and lambs are expected to continue near current levels it said, but prices of bettergrade slaughter cattle probably will decline at least moderately.

Reporting a steady decline in the purchasing power of salary and wage earners during the past several months, the department said "this and other important economic forces suggest a downturn in general business activity during the latter part of 1947" and a weakened demand for meats.

Prospects still point, the department said, to a larger output of meat this year than last, with beef constituting a larger than usual proportion of the total supply during the spring and summer.

- - - -



From St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Feb. 21 -

**DONNELLY CRITICAL OF SOIL AGENCIES' RIVALRY IN STATE; OVERLAPPING OF BUREAUS IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED AT BASIN MEETING** - Topeka, Kans. - Gov. Phil M. Donnelly (Dem.) of Missouri was joined by Gov. Val Peterson (Rep) of Nebraska in critical interrogations concerning the United States Department of Agriculture's soil conservation work, at a meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee yesterday.

It was brought out, in questioning of the Agriculture Department representative in the committee, Gladwin E. Young of Lincoln, Neb., by Donnelly, Peterson and other committee members, that there is overlapping of three rival programs for soil conservation within Young's department. Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, committee chairman and Army Division Engineer, conceded that there was overlapping.

Donnelly declared there was no question but that this multiplication of activity existed, and called on Young to quit distributing maps, such as Young showed here today, that represented only one of the programs, that of the Soil Conservation Service. The other programs are a phase of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and a special departmental flood control program.

- - - -

From Salt Lake City(Utah) Tribune, Feb. 18 -

**SHEEP GROUP HITS HIKE IN GRAZING FEE** - The National Wool Growers' Association will fight an increase of 3c per animal unit month in grazing fees as announced Saturday by Secretary of Interior J. A. Krug, said J. Melvin Jones, secretary.

Mr. Jones said Secretary Krug had notified the public lands committees of the house and senate; Sylvan J. Pauly, Deer Lodge, Mont., president of the National Wool Growers' Assn., and the president of the American National Livestock Assn. of the increase from 5c to 8c per animal unit month effective immediately.

"Just what action N W G A will take in opposing the increase has not yet been determined," Mr. Jones said.

- - - -

From Los Angeles (Calif.) Times, Feb. 21 -

**SPARE WEEDS AS EROSION AID; SOIL MAN URGES** - Ontario - The lowly weed, heretofore held a pest, came into its own today when J. M. Aime, secretary of the Cucamonga Mountain View Soil Conservation District, issued a plea to encourage its growth.

Stressing its value as a wind erosion preventive, Aime declared that weeds and natural grasses have formed the best cover crops this year and related that they "are the result of allowing the weeds to produce seed before cultivation."

"Shallow cultivation," Aime pointed out, "leaves the cover crop and prunings on the surface to act as a mulch and prevents the soil from blowing away."

- - - -

From Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Feb. 21 -

**TAR HEELS SEEK FERTILIZER AID; CONGRESSMEN WIRE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES FOR MORE FERTILIZER INGREDIENTS** - Washington - The North Carolina delegation in Congress, acting today to relieve a serious fertilizer shortage, telegraphed Canadian authorities urging the granting of priorities on ammonium nitrate shipments from that country to the United States.

The Tar Heels have already specifically suggested that this basic material for fertilizer production be given the same priority status as newsprint.

They advised B. S. Liberty, Canadian transportation controller, that such action is needed to correct "an extreme and critical shortage of ammonium nitrate so that North Carolina can join in relieving the world food shortage."

North Carolina is the nation's biggest user of commercial fertilizer.

From Little Rock Arkansas Gazette, Feb. 20 -

**DEALERS LACK SMALL FARM EQUIPMENT** - The plight of 150,000 Arkansas farmers who cannot afford mechanized equipment and are unable to find horse-drawn machinery was described for members of the Arkansas Retail Hardware and Implement Dealers Association yesterday by Henry Franklin of the Franklin Hardware Company of Jonesboro.

Mr. Franklin spoke during a discussion of dealers' problems at the concluding session of the association.

He said one of the principal problems of the small retailer is that of finding horse-drawn equipment for small farmers. He said manufacturers who formerly supplied such items are unable to procure materials which have been diverted to producers of mechanized equipment.

From Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, Feb. 23 -

**HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE** - Editorial - The specter of hoof-and-mouth disease has been trotted out so often as an argument against Argentine beef importation that in some quarters it is regarded as a stalking horse by cattle interests to prevent foreign competition.

Now the disease, resulting from the importation of Brazilian cattle, is raging in Mexico. It would be unfortunate if past cries of what some regard as "wulf, wulf" were to minimize the seriousness of the current outbreak.

Hoof-and-mouth disease is among the gravest of animal diseases. It spreads quickly and can be stamped out only by slaughter of infected animals. The 1924 California outbreak necessitated the slaughter of 131 thousand animals. In the seven outbreaks since 1900, the cost to the nation from this source has been more than 200 million dollars.

It would be a mistake if distance from the outbreak lulled the Midwest into a false feeling of security.

From Montgomery (Ala) Advertiser, Feb. 24 -

**CHEAPER FOOD NOT IN SIGHT** - Editorial - Instead of the appreciable decline in food costs promised a few weeks ago by government economists, we may as well make up our minds to a considerable period of continuing high food costs. A four per cent drop in farm prices during January failed to register at all at the consumer's end of the food counter as predicted by experts in the Agriculture Department.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4141, Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 5 -

COTTON EXCHANGE IS CLOSED BY ONE-DAY STRIKE - Trading will be resumed this morning on the New York Cotton Exchange as the result of a settlement, announced at 11:15 o'clock last night, of a strike by 100 of its clerical and maintenance employees that closed the exchange yesterday. The temporary suspension of trading was the first shut-down of a major commodity or security exchange owing to a labor dispute.

DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK IN N. Y. PREDICT SHORTAGES UP TO 30% IN DELIVERIES - Milk for New York's metropolitan area trickled in from snow-covered up-State sections yesterday at a rate that led distributing companies to predict shortages of up to 30 percent in today's local deliveries.

With a few farm communities snowed in almost completely and trucks and milk trains stalled or delayed in some areas of the six-State milkshed serving New York and its environs, Edward O. Mather, executive director of the Milk Dealers Association of Metropolitan New York, said supplies today might be 25 to 30 percent short.

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 5 -

TOTAL 1947-48 COTTON PLANTINGS FORECAST AS 19,723,000 ACRES; FARMERS IN BELT INTEND TO INCREASE ACREAGE BY 8.5 PER CENT OVER 1946, BUT SHORT OF GOALS - Farmers will plant 19,723,000 acres in cotton this spring, an increase of 8.5 per cent over final harvested acreage of the current season, it was reported by Journal of Commerce correspondents in a survey of intentions to plant as of Mar. 1, 1947. Intended acreage appeared to be 3,377,000 acres short of the Department of Agriculture's goal of 23,100,000 acres for the 1947-48 season.

Only two States, New Mexico and Tennessee, out of the nineteen States surveyed in the belt, indicated that plantings would exceed the recommended goals. Two States producing non-rain-grown cotton reported intentions to equal the recommendations as did the minor cotton producing States, such as Florida and Virginia.

Major factors in the small increase in acreage were the shortage of fertilizers, particularly nitrates, the sufficiency of seed for only one planting, and the high cost of farm labor generally. Some increase, however, was expected as a result of the current high prices paid for cotton.

REVISE SET-ASIDE OF RICE FOR CUBA-Washington(AP) - The Agricultural Department acted today to speed a greater supply of rice to Cuba to meet needs of sugar industry workers. From March 1 until further notice the department will credit mills with meeting Government set-aside requirements at the rate of one bag for each bag of rice exported to Cuba. In February mills were credited at the rate of one bag for each two shipped.

( Turn to page 2 for other items  
from N.Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 445-47

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 5 (Cont.) -

SUGAR REFINERS FAVOR RATIONING; TO END CONTROLS NOW WOULD BRING CHAOS, BUT LATE 1947 MAY BE SAFE, SENATE TOLD-Washington(AP) - George Dice, OFA rationing chief, said today Congress should retain price controls on sugar if it decides to scrap the rationing system.

He contended, however, before a Senate Banking Subcommittee that the rationing program should be extended beyond the Mar. 31 expiration date. This is necessary, he said, for "equitable" distribution and to build up sugar stocks "to near the figures in normal years."

Dice's plea for continued controls was echoed by H. M. Baldrige, representing the United States Cane Sugar Refineries Association.

"If controls were taken off now, we would make more money, but we want controls left on for the present," Baldrige said, adding:

"We will be the first to urge lifting of controls at the proper time. I think by late fall we can see daylight. I hope controls can safely be removed late in 1947. To throw the whole thing out now would bring on chaos."

Loring Overman, representing the American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, and Harold O. Smith, Jr., for the National Confectioners' Association, also opposed ending controls March 31.

- - - - -

From New York Wall Street Journal, March 5 -

WASHINGTON SEES U.S. SERVING AS PANTRY FOR WORLD AT LEAST TILL '48; ROLE INDICATED BY HOOVER FAMINE DATA-Washington - The United States will remain the world's breadbasket for many months to come -- at least until the harvest of 1948.

That's the conclusion top food officials in the Federal Government are reaching after a study of foreign crop prospects and a perusal of the first chapter of ex-President Herbert Hoover's report on famine conditions in occupied Germany.

This abrupt change in the thinking of key agricultural economists means the U. S. will be helping feed a large part of Europe and Asia for a longer period than anyone in this Capital thought likely a few months ago. Its financial implications can have a direct bearing on the conduct of American foreign policy, and on efforts of G.O.P. Congressmen to cut down Federal expenditures.

- - - - -

THE PRICE OF FOOD-Editorial - With almost every passing day the world's need of food appears in larger and larger proportions. Pressure on the United States to send foodstuffs abroad by sale and gift increases. Inevitably, our markets for grain and livestock rise. . . .

It is impossible for us to refuse to heed the world's cry for food. But there is a little something that our Government can do to moderate the impact of export demands upon the purses of its own citizens. It can cease making plans to subsidize any outward movement of foods. If President Truman should peremptorily order all Government agencies to refrain from price-bolstering actions of any kind the people would undoubtedly support him with enthusiasm.

We suggest, further, that the Department of Agriculture exert itself more vigorously than it has to arouse farmers to the special danger to them of the "boom and bust" sequence. Some of them are already aware of it and are wholly out of sympathy with the political theory that prices for farm products cannot possibly go too high for the farmer's good.

- - - - -



From Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 2 -

EGG HOARDING BY U. S. RAPPED - Government hoarding of eggs was blamed by an official of the Philadelphia Produce Exchange yesterday for an "artificial shortage" that has kept egg prices unseasonably high.

The charge was made by Joseph Buschel, a director of the exchange, in telegrams to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Senators Francis J. Myers and Edward Martin.

It came as best quality eggs were being sold at 58 cents a dozen in Philadelphia chain stores.

Buschel, calling the market "chaotic" with "unprecedented shortages and consumer prices mounting daily," demanded that the Federal Government halt its egg-buying until production hits peak volume in the middle of April.

The Philadelphia market official said the Federal buying, earmarked for export of dried and frozen eggs, had cut deeply into supplies that normally would be plentiful at this time of year.

By creating an unnatural shortage, Buschel added, the Government has forced up prices that otherwise would be low.

- - - -

From Watertown (N.Y.) Times, Feb. 25 -

PRICE 'SPREAD' PROBE IS ASKED - Albany - American Labor party legislators today introduced a bill authorizing the commissioner of agriculture and markets to investigate the "spread" between prices paid farmers for milk and those paid by consumers.

The bill was offered by Senator Kenneth Sherbell and Assemblyman Samuel Kaplan, both of Kings county, the only ALP legislators.

In calling for the probe, they pointed to alleged "machinations" on the part of large milk handlers to influence the price of dairy products. They said the consumer was "obviously being victimized" while the small farmer was not getting his share of the high price.

- - - -

From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Feb. 25 -

POULTRY DISEASE HERE TO STAY EXPERT BELIEVES - Newcastle disease, dread poultry disorder, is in Minnesota to stay, in the opinion of Dr. Ralph West, executive secretary of the state livestock sanitary board.

Dr. West informed the appropriations committee of the state house of representatives Monday that eradication of the disease probably will await "such time as we have sufficient personnel and money available."

In response to questions by A. L. Boze, Detroit Lakes, Dr. West said the disease probably would have to be eliminated "on an area basis."

Several bills request legislative reimbursement for poultry owners for alleged damage to flocks resulting from "quarantines" imposed by the commission.

Approximately 33 flocks were quarantined by the board during the biennium for Newcastle, and subsequent laboratory tests showed that all but two had the disease, Dr. West said.

- - - -

From Mankato (Minn.) Free Press, Feb. 22 -

SUBSIDY - Editorial - One of the most hotly condemned New Deal policies during the depression was the practice of plowing under portions of certain crops to prevent surpluses from ruining government-pegged farm practices. For a time farmers even were paid not to raise some crops. A decade later Washington is in much the same position. This time its problem is literally hot potatoes.

Under a subsidy program to keep farming profitable, the government bought at \$2.20 a bushel the surplus of last year's record potato crop. Tons of them now are rotting in warehouses and at open air storage points and the Department of Agriculture has tried desperately to get rid of them, regardless of price, without destroying the domestic market.

In desperation as storage stocks continued to rot, the government ordered the start of potato dumping for use as fertilizer. Farmers plowed them under.

In New York, for instance, potatoes continued to retail at \$2.50 a bushel.

- - - -

From Canton (Ohio) Repository, Feb. 26 -

HOGS \$30; PROPHETS ZERO - Editorial - An all-time pork-price record of \$30 a hundred has been reached, accompanied by an all-time low in prophecy. Everybody concerned seems to have guessed wrong.

It is obvious that when hogs on the hoof sell so high that pork on the table must bring in the neighborhood of \$1 a pound there is a shortage of supply relative to demand. This is elementary, but at the same time so extremely complicated no one understands it.

President Truman said last summer he was baffled because there were so many hogs on farms and so few in the markets. Patient critics pointed out to him and to the backers of the OPA, who at that time were doing his thinking for him that there were alarmingly few hogs on farms and that there'd be no pork on the table at all unless OPA lifted price ceilings.

These same critics, however, seemed to take the position that if price ceilings were lifted, thereby bringing hogs to market, they would come in such quantities that the price of pork would go down, after a flurry toward the blue sky. In short, they seemed to believe there would be enough hog meat forthcoming to keep down the price, while pointing out at the same time that there was an over-all shortage in the hog census.

- - - -

From Portland (Me.) Press Herald, Feb. 26 -

COALS TO NEWCASTLE - Editorial - Every once in a while the force in some of the old adages is surprisingly revealed. There is that one about carrying coals to Newcastle. It is now applicable to potatoes. Kenneth C. Lovejoy told the Portland Club last Monday evening that Arcostook cannot obtain them for school lunches, except through Portland wholesale houses. He told the club more than that: that Arcostook schools have to buy in Portland although as little as half a mile away potatoes are being dumped upon the land to rot. "It is poor psychology," he said, "to ask farmers to grow potatoes when the Government allows some \$80,000,000 worth of them to rot throughout the Nation while the people of Europe and Asia are starving."

- - - -



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 4 -

**PORK BOYCOTT IS URGED: AMERICAN HOUSEWIVES GROUP BALKS AT PRICE OF \$1 A POUND**-Glen Rock, N.J.-American Housewives Organized, Inc., started today a boycott of pork, urging all housewives "to let pork and pork products rot in stores and warehouses rather than pay a dollar a pound for it."

Mrs. Gloria Bartlett of this place, president, said the organization was determined to spread the boycott from town to town across the country.

"We won't strike or picket or in any way contribute to the heavy burden of the Government," Mrs. Bartlett said. "Some of us may have the money to buy pork and other exorbitant items, but none of us has the moral right to let one small group of people walk all over us in order that they may swell their own coffers and grow fat on the money that must somehow be made to support our homes and families."

-----  
**POTATO DAY IN CONGRESS: DINING ROOMS SERVE FREE CAKE, BREAD, CHIPS MADE FROM IT**-Washington-Free potato bread, potato cake and potato chips, supplied by commercial bakeries, were served in the House and Senate dining rooms today.

Use of potato flour in bread and other bakery products has been urged by Representative Paul W. Shafer, Republican, Michigan, as a solution for the potato surplus. Excerpts from his remarks were printed on cards on the dining room tables.

-----  
**ENDS EXPORT CURBS ON COTTON FABRICS**-Washington-All broad woven cotton textiles will be freed from export controls effective March 15, the Commerce Department announced today.

-----  
From Wall Street Journal, March 4 -

**"NOBODY WINS."** Spurting farm prices again hammer home that old truth about war.

Sentiment grows that battered Europe "must be fed" for another year. Few realize how sharp can be the impact of such a feeding on the U.S. economy. It's possible for it to mean the difference between an "adjustment" and a "bust" sometime ahead.

Heavier food exports naturally push prices higher on food products at home. It's inescapable. And as home food prices climb, the case is strengthened for higher wage demands of labor in manufacturing industry. This leads to higher prices on manufactured products. It's the old cycle that finally pushes finished goods prices beyond the finger tips of consumers. And then the collapse. One thing is certain. What the U.S. taxpayer pays for food actually given away will be relatively little. The big cost item lies in the billions of dollars that can be added to home grocery bills by heavy exports.

From "Wall Street Journal, March 4 - .

HEAVY WHEAT EXPORTS ahead now seem a certainty.

Agriculture Secretary Anderson says the Government will start buying new crop wheat as soon as it comes from the fields this summer. Ex-President Hoover says Germany alone will need 100 million bushels of grain from our next crop. Reports of dismal crop prospects continue to trickle from the shattered continent. It all fits into huge export pattern. Mr. Hoover hasn't overstressed the gravity of Europe's position.

- - - -

GRAIN CROP PROSPECTS continue topnotch in this country. Moisture content of the soil is excellent. Rain and snow falling over the past weekend was worth millions of dollars. Talk of damage to the Southwest wheatlands from recent winds is petering out.

- - - -

TOMATO GROWERS will be protected from the blight that hit them in 1946-

Cooperating with the Federal Government in setting up a widespread warning system are specialists in 32 states. Any outbreak of the destructive "late blight" (as the tomato plant killer is called) will bring the warning system into action. Thus growers will be given time to spray their fields before the disease hits them.

- - - -

U.S. TO RECALL UP TO \$10 MILLION OF MEAT SUBSIDY PAID PACKERS--Washington--The Government plans to call back between \$5 million and \$10 million paid in meat subsidies.

Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion officials say they have decided that slaughterers who sold above price ceilings are not entitled to the roll back bonuses.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 4 -

ABANDON SUBSIDY, COTTON MEN URGE: N.Y. COTTON EXCHANGE TRADERS FAVOR END OF 2c EXPORT BONUS--Proposals to abandon the cotton export subsidy were indorsed enthusiastically by cotton traders and members of the New York Cotton Exchange in a survey of opinion by The Journal of Commerce yesterday.

- - - -

SUGAR STUDY--W. S. Mack, president of Pepsi Cola, urged the Senate subcommittee studying legislation to extend sugar controls to end rationing but maintain price and inventory controls. He proposed a top of 15c a pound for sugar.

- - - -



From New York Herald Tribune, Mar. 1 -

TRADE WARNED OF PEAK STORAGE STOCKS OF FOOD; MARKETING SPEED-UP CALLED VITAL TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW CROP DUE ABOUT MAY 1 - With perishable foods now in cold storage totaling about 4,000,000,000 pounds, including a record 140,000,000 pounds of turkey, a speed-up in marketing is vital, the food industry was warned yesterday by William C. Crow, director of the market facilities branch of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Crow told members of the North Atlantic Chapter of the Association of Refrigerated warehouses, that they should "rush liquidation of foods, particularly fruits and vegetables," to make room for new crops expected about May 1.

On Feb. 1, he said, freezers in the United States were filled to 85 per cent of capacity, "the highest level since Feb. 1, 1944, when so much food was held for the armed forces." Only 2 per cent of the food now in storage is owned by government agencies, he added.

Urging that more foods be moved from warehouses to market, Mr. Crow pointed out that "if the January rate were continued it would take two years to eliminate all the vegetables we have in storage; sixteen months to get rid of all the fruit."

-----

From the Boston Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 26 -

MILK PRODUCERS SEE SHORTAGE UNLESS U. S. STABILIZES PRICE - Washington - The National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation declared today, that "dilatatory" government price policies threatened the nation with a shortage of dairy products by fall.

Through its President, John Brandt, of Minneapolis, Minn., the Federation said that unless the Agriculture Department acts to support dairy prices this spring and summer, when production reaches its yearly peak, many dairy farmers will be forced out of business.

Mr. Brandt said it was within the power of the Agriculture Department to provide adequate floors on the dairy prices, but added:

"Unless this power is used, however, dairy producers and the public at large are threatened with market chaos this spring. The result will be distress prices and apparent surpluses. By fall, however, these will become sky rocketing prices and consumer shortages."

-----

From Milwaukee Journal, Feb. 27 -

ASK STRONGER FOREST LAWS CONTROLS ON COUNTIES - Madison, Wis. - Revision of Wisconsin's forest crop land laws to make it easier to create county forest lands and harder to sell them to private individuals was recommended to the senate agriculture and conservation committee Wednesday.

Senator Lenroot (Rep., Superior) explained the bill to the committee. Passage was urged by Fred G. Wilson, superintendent of co-operative forestry for the state conservation department. No one opposed the measure.

Creation of county forest lands would be greatly simplified under the bill, Lenroot said. County boards could acquire land for county forests by resolution. Under the present law, such action must go to the voters in a referendum.

-----

From Davenport Democrat and Leader, Feb. 27 -

CORN COBS AT 10 CENTS PER BUSHEL FOR INDUSTRIAL USE MAY ADD TO EARNERS' INCOME - Washington - Exact dollars and cents are not yet entirely definite, but the way things look now, midwest corn growers are on the verge of a new income -- somewhere around 10 cents per bushel for their cobs. Cobs -- that is -- from a bushel of corn in the ear.

That's what the department of agriculture believes is in the cards. And it has a pretty good reason to think so, for the A. of A. regional laboratory at Peoria, in its pilot plant, has unearthed such a flood of by-products out of corn cobs that even one or two of them could make their utilization highly profitable.

The Peoria pilot laboratory has been in full operation only a few weeks and is unable as yet to give evidence on the economics of using waste products. It has not gone into the possible uses of corn stalks. It has done some work on wheat straw that seems highly encouraging. But things that we old Iowans call weeds have not been explored hardly at all.

But this much is known and has been proven. The first take-off on corn cobs is furfural. Peoria chemists think they can produce it about a cent a pound under the present market price. They believe that corn cobs will produce a dextrose that can be converted into alcohol that on a competitive basis will negate black-strap molasses imports. That is a thing Iowa and other mid-west corn growers have been battling for decades.

- - - -

From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Mar. 1 -

COTTON SUBSTITUTE ON FARMS IS URGED - State College, Miss. - "Cotton is sure to go down to 12 or 15 cents within the next three years, and Mississippi, in order to keep ahead, will have to be ready with a good substitute," said George McLean, publisher of the Tupelo Journal, in addressing the Starkville Rotary Club here Friday.

"Cotton is vulnerable because of the manufacture of synthetics and because of increased mechanization in farming," Mr. McLean said.

The newspaperman, who also heads the Tupelo Chamber of Commerce, declared that in Tupelo since 1946 the rural community development council, with the aid of a paid manager, plus a Chamber of Commerce horticulturist, has promoted local area processing in dairying, cotton, forestry, poultry and fruits and vegetables.

Instances of local berry production of \$1000 per acre have been reported since the new program was put into effect with the aid of state and local agricultural agencies, he said. "The little farmer is going to have to get out of cotton," Mr. McLean emphasized.

"Mechanization and low prices will make it impossible for him to compete with the large plantation organization.

- - - -

From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Feb. 27 -

CONSUMERS HAVE ANSWER - Editorial - Hog prices have set new high records within the last few days and set off a lot of speculation as to just what pork will cost. Some experts figure pork shops at a dollar a pound, for example, and ham and bacon at astronomical heights. The average consumer has the answer. He simply will not buy at such prices, partly because he has too much sense and partly because he hasn't enough money.

- - - -



LIBRARY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.  
MAR 10 1947

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 5 -

COTTON EXCHANGE IS CLOSED BY ONE-DAY STRIKE - Trading will be resumed this morning on the New York Cotton Exchange as the result of a settlement, announced at 11:15 o'clock last night, of a strike by 100 of its clerical and maintenance employes that closed the exchange yesterday. The temporary suspension of trading was the first shut-down of a major commodity or security exchange owing to a labor dispute.

- - - - -

DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK IN N. Y. PREDICT SHORTAGES UP TO 30% IN DELIVERIES - Milk for New York's metropolitan area trickled in from snow-covered up-State sections yesterday at a rate that led distributing companies to predict shortages of up to 30 percent in today's local deliveries.

With a few farm communities snowed in almost completely and trucks and milk trains stalled or delayed in some areas of the six-State milkshed serving New York and its environs, Edward O. Mather, executive director of the Milk Dealers Association of Metropolitan New York, said supplies today might be 25 to 30 percent short.

- - - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 5 -

TOTAL 1947-48 COTTON PLANTINGS FORECAST AS 19,723,000 ACRES; FARMERS IN BELT INTEND TO INCREASE ACREAGE BY 8.5 PER CENT OVER 1946, BUT SHORT OF GOALS - Farmers will plant 19,723,000 acres in cotton this spring, an increase of 8.5 per cent over final harvested acreage of the current season, it was reported by Journal of Commerce correspondents in a survey of intentions to plant as of Mar. 1, 1947. Intended acreage appeared to be 3,377,000 acres short of the Department of Agriculture's goal of 23,100,000 acres for the 1947-48 season.

Only two States, New Mexico and Tennessee, out of the nineteen States surveyed in the belt, indicated that plantings would exceed the recommended goals. Two States producing non-rain-grown cotton reported intentions to equal the recommendations as did the minor cotton producing States, such as Florida and Virginia.

Major factors in the small increase in acreage were the shortage of fertilizers, particularly nitrates, the sufficiency of seed for only one planting, and the high cost of farm labor generally. Some increase, however, was expected as a result of the current high prices paid for cotton.

- - - - -

REVISE SET-ASIDE OF RICE FOR CUBA - Washington (AP) - The Agricultural Department acted today to speed a greater supply of rice to Cuba to meet needs of sugar industry workers. From March 1 until further notice the department will credit mills with meeting Government set-aside requirements at the rate of one bag for each bag of rice exported to Cuba. In February mills were credited at the rate of one bag for each two shipped.

- - - - -

( Turn to page 2 for other items  
from N.Y. Journal of Commerce.)

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 5 (Cont.) -

SUGAR REFINERS FAVOR RATIONING; TO END CONTROLS NOW 'WOULD BRING CHAOS,' BUT LATE 1947 MAY BE SAFE, SENATE TOLD-Washington(AP) - George Dice, OFA rationing chief, said today Congress should retain price controls on sugar if it decides to scrap the rationing system.

He contended, however, before a Senate Banking Subcommittee that the rationing program should be extended beyond the Mar. 31 expiration date. This is necessary, he said, for "equitable" distribution and to build up sugar stocks "to near the figures in normal years."

Dice's plea for continued controls was echoed by H. M. Baldrige, representing the United States Cane Sugar Refineries Association.

"If controls were taken off now, we would make more money, but we want controls left on for the present," Baldrige said, adding:

"We will be the first to urge lifting of controls at the proper time. I think by late fall we can see daylight. I hope controls can safely be removed late in 1947. To throw the whole thing out now would bring on chaos."

Loring Overman, representing the American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, and Harold O. Smith, Jr., for the National Confectioners' Association, also opposed ending controls March 31.

- - - -

From New York Wall Street Journal, March 5 -

WASHINGTON SEES U.S. SERVING AS PANTRY FOR WORLD AT LEAST TILL '48; ROLE INDICATED BY HOOVER FAMINE DATA-Washington - The United States will remain the world's breadbasket for many months to come -- at least until the harvest of 1948.

That's the conclusion top food officials in the Federal Government are reaching after a study of foreign crop prospects and a perusal of the first chapter of ex-President Herbert Hoover's report on famine conditions in occupied Germany.

This abrupt change in the thinking of key agricultural economists means the U. S. will be helping feed a large part of Europe and Asia for a longer period than anyone in this Capital thought likely a few months ago. Its financial implications can have a direct bearing on the conduct of American foreign policy, and on efforts of G.O.P. Congressmen to cut down Federal expenditures.

- - - -

THE PRICE OF FOOD-Editorial - With almost every passing day the world's need of food appears in larger and larger proportions. Pressure on the United States to send foodstuffs abroad by sale and gift increases. Inevitably, our markets for grain and livestock rise. . . .

It is impossible for us to refuse to heed the world's cry for food. But there is a little something that our Government can do to moderate the impact of export demands upon the purses of its own citizens. It can cease making plans to subsidize any outward movement of foods. If President Truman should peremptorily order all Government agencies to refrain from price-bolstering actions of any kind the people would undoubtedly support him with enthusiasm.

We suggest, further, that the Department of Agriculture exert itself more vigorously than it has to arouse farmers to the special danger to them of the "boom and bust" sequence. Some of them are already aware of it and are wholly out of sympathy with the political theory that prices for farm products cannot possibly go too high for the farmer's good.

- - - -



From Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 2 -

EGG HOARDING BY U. S. RAPPED - Government hoarding of eggs was blamed by an official of the Philadelphia Produce Exchange yesterday for an "artificial shortage" that has kept egg prices unseasonably high.

The charge was made by Joseph Buschel, a director of the exchange, in telegrams to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Senators Francis J. Myers and Edward Martin.

It came as best quality eggs were being sold at 58 cents a dozen in Philadelphia chain stores.

Buschel, calling the market "chaotic" with "unprecedented shortages and consumer prices mounting daily," demanded that the Federal Government halt its egg-buying until production hits peak volume in the middle of April.

The Philadelphia market official said the Federal buying, earmarked for export of dried and frozen eggs, had cut deeply into supplies that normally would be plentiful at this time of year.

By creating an unnatural shortage, Buschel added, the Government has forced up prices that otherwise would be low.

- - - -

From Watertown (N.Y.) Times, Feb. 25 -

PRICE 'SPREAD' PROBE IS ASKED - Albany - American Labor party legislators today introduced a bill authorizing the commissioner of agriculture and markets to investigate the "spread" between prices paid farmers for milk and those paid by consumers.

The bill was offered by Senator Kenneth Sherbell and Assemblyman Samuel Kaplan, both of Kings county, the only ALP legislators.

In calling for the probe, they pointed to alleged "machinations" on the part of large milk handlers to influence the price of dairy products. They said the consumer was "obviously being victimized" while the small farmer was not getting his share of the high price.

- - - -

From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Feb. 25 -

POULTRY DISEASE HERE TO STAY EXPERT BELIEVES - Newcastle disease, dread poultry disorder, is in Minnesota to stay, in the opinion of Dr. Ralph West, executive secretary of the state livestock sanitary board.

Dr. West informed the appropriations committee of the state house of representatives Monday that eradication of the disease probably will await "such time as we have sufficient personnel and money available."

In response to questions by A. L. Boze, Detroit Lakes, Dr. West said the disease probably would have to be eliminated "on an area basis."

Several bills request legislative reimbursement for poultry owners for alleged damage to flocks resulting from "quarantines" imposed by the commission.

Approximately 33 flocks were quarantined by the board during the biennium for Newcastle, and subsequent laboratory tests showed that all but two had the disease, Dr. West said.

- - - -

From Mankato (Minn.) Free Press, Feb. 22 -

SUBSIDY - Editorial - One of the most hotly condemned New Deal policies during the depression was the practice of plowing under portions of certain crops to prevent surpluses from ruining government-pegged farm practices. For a time farmers even were paid not to raise some crops. A decade later Washington is in much the same position. This time its problem is literally hot potatoes.

Under a subsidy program to keep farming profitable, the government bought at \$2.20 a bushel the surplus of last year's record potato crop. Tons of them now are rotting in warehouses and at open air storage points and the Department of Agriculture has tried desperately to get rid of them, regardless of price, without destroying the domestic market.

In desperation as storage stocks continued to rot, the government ordered the start of potato dumping for use as fertilizer. Farmers plowed them under.

In New York, for instance, potatoes continued to retail at \$2.50 a bushel.

- - - - -

From Canton (Ohio) Repository, Feb. 26 -

HOGS \$30; PROPHECY ZERO - Editorial - An all-time pork-price record of \$30 a hundred has been reached, accompanied by an all-time low in prophecy. Everybody concerned seems to have guessed wrong.

It is obvious that when hogs on the hoof sell so high that pork on the table must bring in the neighborhood of \$1 a pound there is a shortage of supply relative to demand. This is elementary, but at the same time so extremely complicated no one understands it.

President Truman said last summer he was baffled because there were so many hogs on farms and so few in the markets. Patient critics pointed out to him and to the backers of the OPA, who at that time were doing his thinking for him that there were alarmingly few hogs on farms and that there'd be no pork on the table at all unless OPA lifted price ceilings.

These same critics, however, seemed to take the position that if price ceilings were lifted, thereby bringing hogs to market, they would come in such quantities that the price of pork would go down, after a flurry toward the blue sky. In short, they seemed to believe there would be enough hog meat forthcoming to keep down the price, while pointing out at the same time that there was an over-all shortage in the hog census.

- - - - -

From Portland (Me.) Press Herald, Feb. 26 -

COALS TO NEWCASTLE - Editorial - Every once in a while the force in some of the old adages is surprisingly revealed. There is that one about carrying coals to Newcastle. It is now applicable to potatoes. Kenneth C. Lovejoy told the Portland Club last Monday evening that Arcostock cannot obtain them for school lunches, except through Portland wholesale houses. He told the club more than that: that Arcostock schools have to buy in Portland although as little as half a mile away potatoes are being dumped upon the land to rot. "It is poor psychology," he said, "to ask farmers to grow potatoes when the Government allows some \$80,000,000 worth of them to rot throughout the Nation while the people of Europe and Asia are starving."

- - - - -



1.914  
A2D14  
lap 2

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 4, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 4 -

**PORK BOYCOTT IS URGED: AMERICAN HOUSEWIVES GROUP BALKS AT PRICE OF \$1 A POUND**-Glen Rock, N.J.-American Housewives Organized, Inc., started today a boycott of pork, urging all housewives "to let pork and pork products rot in stores and warehouses rather than pay a dollar a pound for it."

Mrs. Gloria Bartlett of this place, president, said the organization was determined to spread the boycott from town to town across the country.

"We won't strike or picket or in any way contribute to the heavy burden of the Government," Mrs. Bartlett said. "Some of us may have the money to buy pork and other exorbitant items, but none of us has the moral right to let one small group of people walk all over us in order that they may swell their own coffers and grow fat on the money that must somehow be made to support our homes and families."

- - - - -

**POTATO DAY IN CONGRESS: DINING ROOMS SERVE FREE CAKE, BREAD, CHIPS MADE FROM IT**-Washington-Free potato bread, potato cake and potato chips, supplied by commercial bakeries, were served in the House and Senate dining rooms today.

Use of potato flour in bread and other bakery products has been urged by Representative Paul W. Shafer, Republican, Michigan, as a solution for the potato surplus. Excerpts from his remarks were printed on cards on the dining room tables.

- - - - -

**ENDS EXPORT CURBS ON COTTON FABRICS**-Washington-All broad woven cotton textiles will be freed from export controls effective March 15, the Commerce Department announced today.

From Wall Street Journal, March 4 -

**"NOBODY WINS."** Spurting farm prices again hammer home that old truth about war.

Sentiment grows that battered Europe "must be fed" for another year. Few realize how sharp can be the impact of such a feeding on the U.S. economy. It's possible for it to mean the difference between an "adjustment" and a "bust" sometime ahead.

Heavier food exports naturally push prices higher on food products at home. It's inescapable. And as home food prices climb, the case is strengthened for higher wage demands of labor in manufacturing industry. This leads to higher prices on manufactured products. It's the old cycle that finally pushes finished goods prices beyond the finger tips of consumers. And then the collapse. One thing is certain. What the U.S. taxpayer pays for food actually given away will be relatively little. The big cost item lies in the billions of dollars that can be added to home grocery bills by heavy exports.

- - - - -



From Wall Street Journal, March 4 -

HEAVY WHEAT EXPORTS ahead now seem a certainty.

Agriculture Secretary Anderson says the Government will start buying new crop wheat as soon as it comes from the fields this summer. Ex-President Hoover says Germany alone will need 100 million bushels of grain from our next crop. Reports of dismal crop prospects continue to trickle from the shattered continent. It all fits into huge export pattern. Mr. Hoover hasn't overstressed the gravity of Europe's position.

- - - -

GRAIN CROP PROSPECTS continue topnotch in this country. Moisture content of the soil is excellent. Rain and snow falling over the past weekend was worth millions of dollars. Talk of damage to the Southwest wheatlands from recent winds is petering out.

- - - -

TOMATO GROWERS will be protected from the blight that hit them in 1946-- Cooperating with the Federal Government in setting up a widespread warning system are specialists in 32 states. Any outbreak of the destructive "late blight" (as the tomato plant killer is called) will bring the warning system into action. Thus growers will be given time to spray their fields before the disease hits them.

- - - -

U.S. TO RECALL UP TO \$10 MILLION OF MEAT SUBSIDY PAID PACKERS--Washington-- The Government plans to call back between \$5 million and \$10 million paid in meat subsidies.

Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion officials say they have decided that slaughterers who sold above price ceilings are not entitled to the roll back bonuses.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 4 --

ABANDON SUBSIDY, COTTON MEN URGE: N.Y. COTTON EXCHANGE TRADERS FAVOR  
END OF 2c EXPORT BONUS--Proposals to abandon the cotton export subsidy were indorsed enthusiastically by cotton traders and members of the New York Cotton Exchange in a survey of opinion by The Journal of Commerce yesterday.

- - - -

SUGAR STUDY--W. S. Mack, president of Pepsi Cola, urged the Senate subcommittee studying legislation to extend sugar controls to end rationing but maintain price and inventory controls. He proposed a top of 15c a pound for sugar.

- - - -

Farm Digest 235-47-2

From New York Herald Tribune, Mar. 1 -

TRADE WARNED OF PEAK STORAGE STOCKS OF FOOD; MARKETING SPEED-UP CALLED VITAL TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW CROP DUE ABOUT MAY 1 - With perishable foods now in cold storage totaling about 4,000,000,000 pounds, including a record 140,000,000 pounds of turkey, a speed-up in marketing is vital, the food industry was warned yesterday by William C. Crow, director of the market facilities branch of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Crow told members of the North Atlantic Chapter of the Association of Refrigerated warehouses, that they should "rush liquidation of foods, particularly fruits and vegetables," to make room for new crops expected about May 1.

On Feb. 1, he said, freezers in the United States were filled to 85 per cent of capacity, "the highest level since Feb. 1, 1944, when so much food was held for the armed forces." Only 2 per cent of the food now in storage is owned by government agencies, he added.

Urging that more foods be moved from warehouses to market, Mr. Crow pointed out that "if the January rate were continued it would take two years to eliminate all the vegetables we have in storage; sixteen months to get rid of all the fruit."

-----

From the Boston Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 26 -

MILK PRODUCERS SEE SHORTAGE UNLESS U. S. STABILIZES PRICE - Washington - The National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation declared today, that "dilatatory" government price policies threatened the nation with a shortage of dairy products by fall.

Through its President, John Brandt, of Minneapolis, Minn., the Federation said that unless the Agriculture Department acts to support dairy prices this spring and summer, when production reaches its yearly peak, many dairy farmers will be forced out of business.

Mr. Brandt said it was within the power of the Agriculture Department to provide adequate floors on the dairy prices, but added:

"Unless this power is used, however, dairy producers and the public at large are threatened with market chaos this spring. The result will be distress prices and apparent surpluses. By fall, however, these will become sky rocketing prices and consumer shortages."

-----

From Milwaukee Journal, Feb. 27 -

ASK STRONGER FOREST LAWS CONTROLS ON COUNTIES - Madison, Wis. - Revision of Wisconsin's forest crop land laws to make it easier to create county forest lands and harder to sell them to private individuals was recommended to the senate agriculture and conservation committee Wednesday.

Senator Lenroot (Rep., Superior) explained the bill to the committee. Passage was urged by Fred G. Wilson, superintendent of co-operative forestry for the state conservation department. No one opposed the measure.

Creation of county forest lands would be greatly simplified under the bill, Lenroot said. County boards could acquire land for county forests by resolution. Under the present law, such action must go to the voters in a referendum.

-----



From Davenport Democrat and Leader, Feb. 27 -

**CORN COBS AT 10 CENTS PER BUSHEL FOR INDUSTRIAL USE MAY ADD TO EARNERS' INCOME** - Washington - Exact dollars and cents are not yet entirely definite, but the way things look now, midwest corn growers are on the verge of a new income -- somewhere around 10 cents per bushel for their cobs. Cobs -- that is -- from a bushel of corn in the ear.

That's what the department of agriculture believes is in the cards. And it has a pretty good reason to think so, for the A. of A. regional laboratory at Peoria, in its pilot plant, has unearthed such a flood of by-products out of corn cobs that even one or two of them could make their utilization highly profitable.

The Peoria pilot laboratory has been in full operation only a few weeks and is unable as yet to give evidence on the economics of using waste products. It has not gone into the possible uses of corn stalks. It has done some work on wheat straw that seems highly encouraging. But things that we old Iowans call weeds have not been explored hardly at all.

But this much is known and has been proven. The first take-off on corn cobs is furfural. Peoria chemists think they can produce it about a cent a pound under the present market price. They believe that corn cobs will produce a dextrose that can be converted into alcohol that on a competitive basis will negate black-strap molasses imports. That is a thing Iowa and other mid-west corn growers have been battling for decades.

-----  
From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Mar. 1 -

**COTTON SUBSTITUTE ON FARMS IS URGED** - State College, Miss. - "Cotton is sure to go down to 12 or 15 cents within the next three years, and Mississippi, in order to keep ahead, will have to be ready with a good substitute," said George McLean, publisher of the Tupelo Journal, in addressing the Starkville Rotary Club here Friday.

"Cotton is vulnerable because of the manufacture of synthetics and because of increased mechanization in farming," Mr. McLean said.

The newspaperman, who also heads the Tupelo Chamber of Commerce, declared that in Tupelo since 1946 the rural community development council, with the aid of a paid manager, plus a Chamber of Commerce horticulturist, has promoted local area processing in dairying, cotton, forestry, poultry and fruits and vegetables.

Instances of local berry production of \$1000 per acre have been reported since the new program was put into effect with the aid of state and local agricultural agencies, he said. "The little farmer is going to have to get out of cotton," Mr. McLean emphasized.

"Mechanization and low prices will make it impossible for him to compete with the large plantation organization.

-----  
From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Feb. 27 -

**CONSUMERS HAVE ANSWER** - Editorial - Hog prices have set new high records within the last few days and set off a lot of speculation as to just what pork will cost. Some experts figure pork shops at a dollar a pound, for example, and ham and bacon at astronomical heights. The average consumer has the answer. He simply will not buy at such prices, partly because he has too much sense and partly because he hasn't enough money.



MAR 12 1947

1.914  
92 D14 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 6 —

SENATE APPROVES, 58 to 29, ENDING OF OPA BY JUNE 30—Washington—The Senate, while granting the Office of Price Administration a limited lease on life, voted 58 to 29, today to direct the agency to go out of business by June 30. The vote was on a "rider" to an appropriation bill, which as approved by the House denied OPA the money it needed to carry on its work through the end of June, its legal expiration date, and in addition rescinded \$9,000,000 of the agency's current funds.

The Senate, however, restored the amount of the House rescission and gave OPA almost \$8,000,000 additionally.

-----

HOOVER AIDE ASKS WORLD FOOD FUND: FITZGERALD SUGGESTS PAYMENTS FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES BE SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE USE—Washington—Dr. Dennis A. FitzGerald, secretary-general of the International Emergency Food Council, advocated today that relief repayments go into a revolving fund to meet future famines. Dr. FitzGerald has accompanied former President Herbert Hoover on all his food surveys after World War II.

Reporting to a press conference on the Hoover trip last month, Dr. FitzGerald described shortages in countries outside Germany so severe as to threaten bread ration cuts in at least four of them.

He said that some countries unquestionably would need added help to get on their economic feet and added:

"Most of them have some exchange they could use to buy food, but it would merely postpone the day when they would again be flat on their backs."

-----

U.S. AGREES TO SHIP BEEF TO THE BRITISH: ANDERSON SAYS AIM IS THAT MEAT RATION NOT BE CUT—WHEAT AID ALSO PLEDGED—Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said today that the United States had agreed to supply Great Britain with enough meat by this spring to prevent a cut in the present meat ration there.

The shipments will be limited to beef and possibly to surplus turkeys, which the department is acquiring under a grower price support program. No pork will be included, Mr. Anderson said, because of short domestic supplies.

Mr. Anderson said this country has "a whole lot of beef and we can spare some."

The Secretary said also that this country would help the British build up a stockpile of wheat before the fall so that they would not be as dependent upon imports during the winter season, when transportation difficulties mount.

-----

FOOD UP 40% IN YEAR: DUN & BRADSTREET INDEX OF 31 ITEMS AT RECORD HIGH—Wholesale food prices, which have increased 30 percent in the last twelve months, reached a new high on March 1, it was reported yesterday by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., on the basis of its index of thirty one foods in common use. The index reached \$6.77 an increase of 15 cents over the previous week's mark of \$6.62 itself a record high.

The latest figure is 4.4 percent above last November's high mark of \$6.49. A year ago the index stood at \$4.17. Nineteen of the thirty one foods showed price increases and three declined, the others remaining the same.

-----

From New York Times, March 6 -

MAINE SOLVING POTATO SURPLUS-Augusta-Government orders for Maine potatoes to feed hungry Europeans and seed their war scarred lands, according to State Agriculture Commissioner A. K. Gardner, will mean shipment of about 2,500,000 bushels a week, which "pretty nearly solves the surplus problem for Maine." The surplus was estimated recently at about 12,000,000 bushels, out of a record 30,000,000 harvest.

- - - - -

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, March 6 -

COMPTROLLER SEEKS TO LIMIT CCC EXTENSION TO ONE YEAR-Washington-Comptroller General Lindsay Warren recommended today that Congress extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corp. for only one year pending completion of an audit.

Warren wrote the Senate Agriculture Committee that a pending two-year extension bill would . . . remove CCC from provisions of law which require all Government corporations to get Federal charters before July 1, 1948. CCC now operates under a State charter.

When the audit now being made is completed, Warren added it will be sent to Congress along with recommendations on reincorporation.

- - - - -

U.S. TO RETAIN SUBSIDY ON RAW COTTON EXPORT-Washington-Representative McMillan (Dem.S.C.) said Secretary of Agriculture Anderson assured Congress members today that the Government will continue a 2¢ a pound subsidy on exported cotton. The subsidy was cut from 4¢ recently.

McMillan said Anderson talked to about 50 Congressmen from cotton growing States at a special meeting.

- - - - -

SUGAR CONTROL TRANSFER LIKELY WITH OPA END VOTED BY SENATE SWITCH TO USDA IS SEEN-The vote of the Senate to end OPA on June 30 lent support to industry views that control of sugar will be absorbed by the United States Department of Agriculture within the near future. Something will have to be done in this direction before March 31, when rationing expires.

- - - - -

From New York Herald Tribune, March 6 -

'PROPER' TARIFF PROTECTION IS URGED FOR WOOL: PAULY SAYS PROPOSED IMPORT QUOTAS SHOULD BE SET AS TEMPORARY MEASURE ONLY-Washington-The National Wool Growers' Association advocated today a "proper" tariff on wool. Sylvan J. Pauly, association president, told an agricultural subcommittee that import quotas proposed in several pending bills should be considered only temporary measures until "proper" tariff protection is obtained.

- - - - -



From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Feb. 27 -

**TREND OF CONGRESS EVENTS WORRIES STATE FARM LEADERS** - Concern is growing among Minnesota farm leaders over the direction of events in Congress, it was revealed Wednesday night.

The criticism is aroused by unofficial reports and rumors about preliminary discussions in Congress of the ways in which a share in the total reduction in the budget may be applied to agricultural appropriations.

Farm leaders also are disturbed by the continued lack of evidence that Congress will get around to enact by the summer of next year a new program of basic national farm legislation to replace the 90 per cent of parity guarantees which expire at the end of 1948.

This particular concern, it was learned, was a subject of a special conference here recently between certain Minnesota farm leaders and Carroll B. Reece, chairman of the Republican National committee.

Possibilities of slashing REA as much as 50 per cent, of drastically reducing or eliminating school lunch funds, and of cutting the AAA soil conservation fund from 300 million dollars last year and 200 million recommended by President Truman to 100 millions or less are reported under discussion.

J. S. Jones, executive secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation, may go to Washington in April to appear in Congressional hearings in support of farm appropriations considered vital to agriculture in this region.

- - - -

From Indianapolis (Ind.) Star, Feb. 27 -

**PACKER URGES BUYERS' STRIKE WOULD LOWER MEAT PRICES, SAYS OFFICIAL** - housewives were urged by a Hoosier meat-packing firm executive yesterday to "go on a meat-buying strike" to bring spiraling retail meat prices "down within reason."

Meanwhile, buyers at Midwestern stockyards halted the skyrocketing prices, at least temporarily, by rejecting the record prices asked by farmers who shipped 90,000 hogs to market yesterday.

In Indianapolis, consumer resistance was growing and is expected to blossom into a full-fledged buyers' strike if the upward trend continues.

John Hartmeyer, executive vice-president of the Marheoffer Company, Muncie meat packing firm, declared that a strike by housewives "is the only way to bring meat prices down within reason."

- - - -

From San Francisco (Calif) Examiner

**GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AT ITS BEST** - Editorial - The Department of Agriculture has petitioned Congress for special authority to combat the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Mexico, with the laudable intention of preventing the spread of the dangerous infection to the United States.

The consent of Congress is necessary because the normal authority of the department is restricted to the United States, and only in extraordinary circumstances would lifting of that restriction be desirable.

The "extraordinary circumstances" are clearly evident in the present situation. "It is the Good Neighbor Policy at its best, which the Department of Agriculture proposes to pursue in combating and eradicating this destructive infection at its source, and the Congress should grant the necessary authority without hesitation."

- - - -



From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Feb. 24 -

**POTATO GLUT AND FAMINE** - Editorial - International food experts will say it is easily explainable, but the common sense man will still see an oddity in the fact that the United States government finds it next to impossible virtually to give away 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes to a half-starved world.

The potatoes are on storage in the East and constitute a fraction of the surplus that the government purchased at the rate of about \$2.20 a bushel in fulfilling its crop-support commitment. Offered to relief agencies and foreign governments at only four cents per hundred pounds, the potatoes have found few takers. Offered to commercial exporters at 35 cents a hundred, the response was so poor that the price has been dropped to five cents a hundred in an effort to avert a complete loss through spoilage.

-----

From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press - Feb. 27 -

**CHAIN REACTION IN PORK** - Editorial - Pork prices have rocketed up to an all-time high for the simple reason that not enough hogs are going to market to satisfy the demand for their meat. And the reason so few are being shipped to slaughter is that farmers just haven't got them.

When you get into the causes behind the lack of pigs on the farm, however, things grow more complex. That brings the inquiry to the unpredictable chain reaction that is bound to ensue when any phase of our economy is subjected to artificial manipulation.

Early last summer the Government sought to get corn on to the market by artificial means. It offered a bonus of 30 cents a bushel.

That got the corn in, all right, but it also made it more profitable to grab the subsidy than to use corn for feeding pigs. Farmers sold off their swine, either because they wanted to peddle their corn supply at the exalted price or could not profitably buy corn for hog-feeding purposes.

So most of the pigs, both big and little, went to market. The removal of all controls on pork and corn prices in June hastened this liquidation. By fall, the volume of hogs going through stockyards was 11 per cent below the 1943 figure.

You can call it controlled economy or just plain finagling. The end of the chain reaction set up is always the same. That is, something more disastrous than the condition it sought to correct.

-----

From St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Feb. 26 -

**AND THE HOG JUMPED OVER THE MOON** - Editorial - Recent rejoicing over the decline in food prices was premature, as many of us now are becoming aware.

The trend again is upward. And, leading the ascension, the hog is doing in reality what the cow did in the nursery rhyme.

Yesterday, live hogs sold for \$30 a hundred pounds in Chicago -- an all-time high.

A Department of Agriculture meat specialist warns that a pork chop soon may cost a pound at your retail butcher shop. Before we read his prediction, a St. Petersburg merchant had tipped us off to a preliminary boost. Pointing to a pork loin which had just been delivered in his shop, he confided that it had cost 69 cents a pound wholesale, adding: "That means up to 90 cents on pork chops."

-----

1.914  
A2D14  
(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 6

SENATE APPROVES, 58 to 29, ENDING OF OPA BY JUNE 30—Washington—The Senate, while granting the Office of Price Administration a limited lease on life, voted 58 to 29, today to direct the agency to go out of business by June 30. The vote was on a "rider" to an appropriation bill, which as approved by the House denied OPA the money it needed to carry on its work through the end of June, its legal expiration date, and in addition rescinded \$9,000,000 of the agency's current funds.

The Senate, however, restored the amount of the House rescission and gave OPA almost \$8,000,000 additionally.

HOOPER AIDE ASKS WORLD FOOD FUND: FITZGERALD SUGGESTS PAYMENTS FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES BE SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE USE—Washington—Dr. Dennis A. FitzGerald, secretary-general of the International Emergency Food Council, advocated today that relief repayments go into a revolving fund to meet future famines. Dr. FitzGerald has accompanied former President Herbert Hoover on all his food surveys after World War II.

Reporting to a press conference on the Hoover trip last month, Dr. FitzGerald described shortages in countries outside Germany so severe as to threaten bread ration cuts in at least four of them.

He said that some countries unquestionably would need added help to get on their economic feet and added:

"Most of them have some exchange they could use to buy food, but it would merely postpone the day when they would again be flat on their backs."

U.S. AGREES TO SHIP BEEF TO THE BRITISH: ANDERSON SAYS AIM IS THAT MEAT RATION NOT BE CUT—WHEAT AID ALSO PLEDGED—Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said today that the United States had agreed to supply Great Britain with enough meat by this spring to prevent a cut in the present meat ration there.

The shipments will be limited to beef and possibly to surplus turkeys, which the department is acquiring under a grower price support program. No pork will be included, Mr. Anderson said, because of short domestic supplies.

Mr. Anderson said this country has "a whole lot of beef and we can spare some."

The Secretary said also that this country would help the British build up a stockpile of wheat before the fall so that they would not be as dependent upon imports during the winter season, when transportation difficulties mount.

FOOD UP 40% IN YEAR: DUN & BRADSTREET INDEX OF 31 ITEMS AT RECORD HIGH—Wholesale food prices, which have increased 30 percent in the last twelve months, reached a new high on March 1, it was reported yesterday by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., on the basis of its index of thirty one foods in common use. The index reached \$6.77 an increase of 15 cents over the previous week's mark of \$6.62 itself a record high.

The latest figure is 4.4 percent above last November's high mark of \$6.49. A year ago the index stood at \$4.17. Nineteen of the thirty one foods showed price increases and three declined, the others remaining the same.



From New York Times, March 6 -

MAINE SOLVING POTATO SURPLUS-Augusta-Government orders for Maine potatoes to feed hungry Europeans and seed their war scarred lands, according to State Agriculture Commissioner A. K. Gardner, will mean shipment of about 2,500,000 bushels a week, which "pretty nearly solves the surplus problem for Maine." The surplus was estimated recently at about 12,000,000 bushels, out of a record 80,000,000 harvest.

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, March 6 -

COMPTROLLER SEEKS TO LIMIT CCC EXTENSION TO ONE YEAR-Washington-Comptroller General Lindsay Warren recommended today that Congress extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corp. for only one year pending completion of an audit.

Warren wrote the Senate Agriculture Committee that a pending two-year extension bill would remove CCC from provisions of law which require all Government corporations to get Federal charters before July 1, 1948. CCC now operates under a State charter.

When the audit now being made is completed, Warren added it will be sent to Congress along with recommendations on reincorporation.

U.S. TO RETAIN SUBSIDY ON RAW COTTON EXPORT-Washington-Representative McMillan (Dem.S.C.) said Secretary of Agriculture Anderson assured Congress members today that the Government will continue a 2¢ a pound subsidy on exported cotton. The subsidy was cut from 4¢ recently.

McMillan said Anderson talked to about 50 Congressmen from cotton growing States at a special meeting.

SUGAR CONTROL TRANSFER LIKELY WITH OPA END VOTED BY SENATE SWITCH TO USDA IS SEEN-The vote of the Senate to end OPA on June 30 lent support to industry views that control of sugar will be absorbed by the United States Department of Agriculture within the near future. Something will have to be done in this direction before March 31, when rationing expires.

From New York Herald Tribune, March 6 -

'PROPER' TARIFF PROTECTION IS URGED FOR WOOL: PAULY SAYS PROPOSED IMPORT QUOTAS SHOULD BE SET AS TEMPORARY MEASURE ONLY-Washington-The National Wool Growers' Association advocated today a "proper" tariff on wool. Sylvan J. Pauly, association president, told an agricultural subcommittee that import quotas proposed in several pending bills should be considered only temporary measures until "proper" tariff protection is obtained.



From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Feb. 27 -

**TREND OF CONGRESS EVENTS WORRIES STATE FARM LEADERS** - Concern is growing among Minnesota farm leaders over the direction of events in Congress, it was revealed Wednesday night.

The criticism is aroused by unofficial reports and rumors about preliminary discussions in Congress of the ways in which a share in the total reduction in the budget may be applied to agricultural appropriations.

Farm leaders also are disturbed by the continued lack of evidence that Congress will get around to enact by the summer of next year a new program of basic national farm legislation to replace the 90 per cent of parity guarantees which expire at the end of 1948.

This particular concern, it was learned, was a subject of a special conference here recently between certain Minnesota farm leaders and Carroll B. Reece, chairman of the Republican National committee.

Possibilities of slashing REA as much as 50 per cent, of drastically reducing or eliminating school lunch funds, and of cutting the AAA soil conservation fund from 300 million dollars last year and 200 million recommended by President Truman to 100 millions or less are reported under discussion.

J. S. Jones, executive secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation, may go to Washington in April to appear in Congressional hearings in support of farm appropriations considered vital to agriculture in this region.

- - - - -

From Indianapolis (Ind.) Star, Feb. 27 -

**PACKER URGES BUYERS' STRIKE WOULD LOWER MEAT PRICES, SAYS OFFICIAL** - housewives were urged by a Hoosier meat-packing firm executive yesterday to "go on a meat-buying strike" to bring spiraling retail meat prices "down within reason."

Meanwhile, buyers at Midwestern stockyards halted the skyrocketing prices, at least temporarily, by rejecting the record prices asked by farmers who shipped 90,000 hogs to market yesterday.

In Indianapolis, consumer resistance was growing and is expected to blossom into a full-fledged buyers' strike if the upward trend continues.

John Hartmeyer, executive vice-president of the Marhoefer Company, Muncie meat packing firm, declared that a strike by housewives "is the only way to bring meat prices down within reason."

- - - - -

From San Francisco (Calif) Examiner

**GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AT ITS BEST** - Editorial - The Department of Agriculture has petitioned Congress for special authority to combat the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Mexico, with the laudable intention of preventing the spread of the dangerous infection to the United States.

The consent of Congress is necessary because the normal authority of the department is restricted to the United States, and only in extraordinary circumstances would lifting of that restriction be desirable.

The "extraordinary circumstances" are clearly evident in the present situation. "It is the Good Neighbor" Policy at its best, which the Department of Agriculture proposes to pursue in combating and eradicating this destructive infection at its source, and the Congress should grant the necessary authority without hesitation.

- - - - -

From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Feb. 24 -

POTATO GLUT AND FAMINE - Editorial - International food experts will say it is easily explainable, but the common sense man will still see an oddity in the fact that the United States government finds it next to impossible virtually to give away 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes to a half-starved world.

The potatoes are on storage in the East and constitute a fraction of the surplus that the government purchased at the rate of about \$2.20 a bushel in fulfilling its crop-support commitment. Offered to relief agencies and foreign governments at only four cents per hundred pounds, the potatoes have found few takers. Proffered to commercial exporters at 35 cents a hundred, the response was so poor that the price has been dropped to five cents a hundred in an effort to avert a complete loss through spoilage.

- - - - -

From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press - Feb. 27 -

CHAIN REACTION IN PORK - Editorial - Pork prices have rocketed up to an all-time high for the simple reason that not enough hogs are going to market to satisfy the demand for their meat. And the reason so few are being shipped to slaughter is that farmers just haven't got them.

When you get into the causes behind the lack of pigs on the farm, however, things grow more complex. That brings the inquiry to the unpredictable chain reaction that is bound to ensue when any phase of our economy is subjected to artificial manipulation.

Early last summer the Government sought to get corn on to the market by artificial means. It offered a bonus of 30 cents a bushel.

That got the corn in, all right, but it also made it more profitable to grab the subsidy than to use corn for feeding pigs. Farmers sold off their swine, either because they wanted to peddle their corn supply at the exalted price or could not profitably buy corn for hog-feeding purposes.

So most of the pigs, both big and little, went to market. The removal of all controls on pork and corn prices in June hastened this liquidation. By fall, the volume of hogs going through stockyards was 11 per cent below the 1945 figure.

You can call it controlled economy or just plain finagling. The end of the chain reaction set up is always the same. That is, something more disastrous than the condition it sought to correct.

- - - - -

From St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Feb. 26 -

AND THE HOG JUMPED OVER THE MOON - Editorial - Recent rejoicing over the decline in food prices was premature, as many of us now are becoming aware.

The trend again is upward. And, leading the ascension, the hog is doing in reality what the cow did in the nursery rhyme.

Yesterday, live hogs sold for \$30 a hundred pounds in Chicago -- an all-time high.

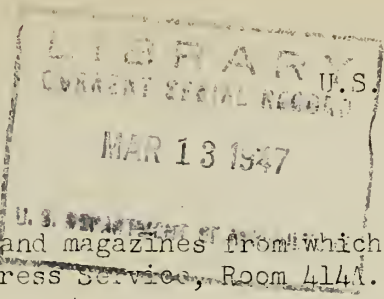
A Department of Agriculture meat Specialist warns that a pork chop soon may cost \$1 a pound at your retail butcher shop. Before we read his prediction, a St. Petersburg merchant had tipped us off to a preliminary boost. Pointing to a pork loin which had just been delivered in his shop, he confided that it had cost 69 cents a pound wholesale, adding: "That means up to 90 cents on pork chops."

- - - - -



1.914  
A2D14  
Copy 2

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 10, 1947)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4141. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 10 -

BREAD PRICES RISE THROUGHOUT NATION: GENERAL INCREASE OF  $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 CENTS A LOAF SEEN-Chicago-AP-Bread prices are rising, a survey of United States cities showed today.

Increased cost of ingredients, combined with the overseas demand for wheat and flour, are expected to bring price advances above those already made in some cities.

Price increases noted during the recent advance in wheat varied from one-half cent a loaf to 3 cents, depending on the size of the loaf. Baking interests indicated that the increase would become general throughout the country.

- - - - -

YUGOSLAV HUNGER AT CRITICAL STAGE: U.S. ENDORSES AID-Belgrade-The United States Embassy agreed today to request the International Emergency Food Council to supply 100,000 tons of grain to Yugoslavia. The need was described by an official of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration as "the worst crisis in the country since the Germans left a devastated land."

The country has suddenly awakened to the threat of starvation among 5,000,000 persons in the deficiency areas of Bosnia, Hercegovina, Dalmatia and parts of Slovenia. The area is roughly the entire mountainous region of the country and was hardest hit at the beginning of UNRRA's operations two years ago.

- - - - -

HITS U.S. DEALINGS WITH PUERTO RICO: SUGAR EVER ON DEFENSIVE WITH U.S.-Washington-The Foreign Policy Association asserted tonight that lack of a clear United States policy toward Puerto Rico was to blame for many of the island's economic problems.

The report was written by Olive Holmes of the FPA staff after a study of Puerto Rican problems.

Miss Holmes asserted that uncertainty about Puerto Rico's future relationship with the United States "adversely affects its sugar culture, the island's main economic crop."

"The island's highcost sugar industry," she said, "is continually on the defensive in Washington against the Western best area, the Louisiana and Florida cane growers with their vocal lobbies and the Cuban interests with their State Department support."

"Puerto Ricans are generally dissatisfied with the existing production and marketing arrangements. In time sugar production will become highly mechanized and, as such, a high wage industry providing revenue but fewer opportunities for employment."

- - - - -

From New York Times, March 10 -

HITS U.S. TRADE PROGRAM: BESSE CALLS IT ECONOMIC AGGRESSION, NOT PEACE PROMOTION-The current emphasis which the United States is putting on foreign trade is economic aggression rather than promotion of peace. Arthur Besse, president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, stated yesterday following his election to the presidency of the American Products Council.

Mr. Besse criticized President Truman's recent speech advocating reduction of American tariffs on the basis that all the nations of the world are much concerned lest the drive of the United States for increased markets abroad will deprive them of the markets they need. The proposed International Trade Charter, he said, takes the control of foreign trade of the United States right out of this country's hands.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 10 -

SENATE GROUP VOTES SUGAR EXTENSION: WOULD RETAIN RATIONING TILL MARCH 31, '49 UNDER USDA AND 'HISTORICAL USE' FORMULA-Washington-A one year extension of sugar rationing and price controls was recommended to the Senate yesterday by its Banking Committee by a 10 to 3 vote.

At the same time the committee recommended that administration of sugar controls be shifted from the OPA to the Agriculture Department as soon as the extension becomes law.

Senator Flanders (Rep. Vt.) who told reporters about the decision after a lengthy closed door session, said that the Agriculture Department had assured Senators that every housewife would receive 35 pounds of sugar this year, or 10 pounds more than allowed under rationing last year.

Flanders said that there also would be more sugar available for condensed milk "to avoid dumping milk down the drain" for lack of sugar to preserve it.

The Senator said that industrial allocation of sugar to bakers, candy-makers, bottlers and others would be "less rigid" than formerly although the so called "historical base" would be retained.

- - - -

HARVESTER PRICE CUTS HERALD INDUSTRY ANSWER TO RESISTANCE-Chicago-New indications that industry is preparing to take preventive measures to head off a recession resulting from consumer resistance is seen in the action of International Harvester Corp. in reducing prices by \$20,000,000 a year.

The action of International Harvester, announced over the weekend by Fowler McCormick, chairman of the board, was regarded as doubly significant, since the company had previously increased prices only 20 percent since 1941. This is less than half of the 62 percent rise in all manufactured goods reported by the Government since 1941.

Moreover, there are no signs of consumer resistance to farm equipment prices, such as have been manifested recently in soft goods and some consumers durable goods. Even before the Harvester price reduction, leaders of the farm equipment industry indicated that they expected sales of farm equipment this year to touch the \$1,000,000,000 mark for the first time.

- - - -



From Topeka (Kans.) Capital, Feb. 28 -

WAIL AND MOAN AT HIGH PRICES BUT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD - Housewives may stage a sitdown strike on rising pork prices, but Topeka meat merchants gloomily doubted Thursday that it would do them much good.

It's the demand from both coasts, especially the East, that is causing the price to zoom, according to Earnest Dibble of the Dibble stores. Customer resistance may be expected, but it will not make much difference here, he predicted. Consumers in the East and West will probably continue to buy at high prices, draining whatever effect buyer resistance in the Midwest might have.

Wayne Baker, manager of the meat department at Green's grocery, 813 Kansas, said the housewife's objection to pork and bacon prices is still mostly in the talking stage. He has heard a lot of complaining and questioning, but women have kept right on buying. As a matter of fact, the effect of the price rise has hardly been felt so far.

- - - -

From Charleston (S.C.) News and Courier, Feb. 28 -

MEAT SCARCITIES BLAMED ON HIGH PURCHASING POWER - Rising meat prices are due to scarcities caused by high purchasing power, J. B. Larisey, assistant Manager of Armour and company's Charleston branch, told Civitans of St. Philip's and St. Michael's parish at their meeting yesterday.

- - - -

From Atlanta (Ga.) Journal, Feb. 27 -

HOMING CHICKENS - Editorial - Chickens seldom fail to come home to roost. The barnyard metaphor may be a bit mixed but for example look at the price of pork. The American people brought \$30 hogs on themselves when last summer their cries of discontent, amplified and directionally beamed by members of Congress, resulted in the destruction of price control.

President Truman and Chester Bowles warned the people of the consequence but nobody listened. Free markets and free enterprise must be reinstated immediately.

One of the many upshots was that the growers of swine hustled their little pigs off to market as rapidly as they could after controls were lifted last summer.

Now we are paying the penalty in the price of pork, just as we are paying in many another matter.

- - - -

From St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mar. 2 -

PREDICTION OF SCARCITY OF PORK UNTIL OCTOBER - A scarcity of pork until next October was predicted yesterday by W. R. Huitt, secretary of the St. Louis Livestock Exchange. Commenting after seeing the February report of the Producers' Livestock Commission Association, Huitt said supplies of beef are expected to be maintained at present levels. Huitt said about 50 percent of the 1946 spring pig crop already had been marketed, which indicated an even greater shortage of pork next April. He said he doubted pork prices would increase to \$1 per pound, the price recently predicted by the Labor Department.

- - - -

From Boise Idaho Statesman, Feb. 26 -

**HIGH-PRICED PORK** - Editorial - All-time high pork prices on the Chicago market, which is the forerunner of more expensive pork chops, ham and bacon, are not at all surprising. The circumstances that would cause this situation were plain as day three and four years ago and despite the fact the men who controlled OPA were told about it by leading pork raisers from all parts of the nation there was no change in perhaps one of the most amazing blunders of the price control system.

There will be a number of reasons offered as to why the price of pork is now so high. Most of them will be efforts to cloud the issue. Here are the real reasons for the present high price of pork:

OPA held firm ceiling on hog prices.

OPA did not hold ceiling on feed prices.

The hog raiser could not pay the doubled price for feed and raise pork to sell at OPA ceilings. Consequently breeding herds were sold to a point that today we have a shortage of pork. Until the hog-raising industry can increase hog production to somewhere meet the demand, pork prices will stay high.

Supply and demand --- the sound and solid fundamentals of our American system --- control the price of pork and everything else.

Men in a bureau failed and the public pays the bill.

- - - - -

From Madison (Wisc.) Capital Times, Feb. 27 -

**YOU ASKED FOR IT** - Editorial - Incensed Madison citizens gathered at the city library the other night to discuss what steps to take to ward off the shattering impact on the family budget of the skyrocketing price of meat.

While the group that met at the library the other night cannot be blamed for lack of interest in the issue of price control, the public itself is to blame that only the inferior cuts of meat are selling today at 50 cents a pound or less.

The people swallowed the propaganda of those who were out to kill OPA last October during the meat strike. They allowed the big packers and the big newspapers to convince them that OPA was a bureaucratic monstrosity and that the law of supply and demand would take care of sky-rocketing prices.

Five months have elapsed since price controls on meat were killed. Where is the law of supply and demand? Is it reflected in the reports that pork chops are going up to \$1 a pound?

You joined in the hue and cry to massacre OPA. You asked for it. And now you're getting it.

- - - - -

From Omaha (Nebr) World Herald, Feb. 26 -

**GRUBS FACING ROUGHER YEAR; MORE CATTLE SPRAYING IS IN PROSPECT** - There probably will be more cattle spraying done this year than ever before.

One reason is the availability of new and better insecticides and the equipment for applying them.

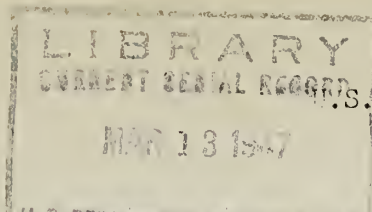
Another is the educational campaign that has been carried on by such men as Dr. W. T. Spencer, regional manager of the Livestock Loss Prevention Board. Grubs, flies, lice cost American beef and dairy products producers annually an amount of money estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. Grubs alone cost farmers something like 150 million dollars.

- - - - -



1.914  
72D14

62 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 11, 1947)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 444A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 11 -

U.S. DELEGATION NAMED FOR WORLD WHEAT TALKS-Washington-Leslie A. Wheeler will be chairman of the International Wheat Conference, which will meet in London on March 18, according to an announcement today at the State Department.

Mr. Wheeler is director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Department of Agriculture.

Other members of the delegation were announced as Carl C. Farrington assistant administrator of the Agriculture Department's Production and Marketing Administration; Edward G. Cale, associate chief of the State Department's Division of International Resources, and Paul O. Nyhus, agricultural attache to the United States Embassy in London.

The conference will endeavor to develop equitable international wheat prices, adequate wheat supplies, wheat reserves through national stocks, avoidance of burdensome wheat surpluses and diversion of land unsuitable for wheat to other crops.

- - - -

U.S. AID TO AUSTRIA VITAL, HOOVER FINDS: \$155,000,000 FOR RELIEF URGED-Washington-Herbert Hoover recommended today the allotment of \$155,000,000 in emergency relief for Austria for April 1, 1947, to July 1, 1948. In a report, made public today, on his study of the Austrian phase of relief needs in the occupied area of Europe under American jurisdiction, he said this sum did not cover industrial rehabilitation.

- - - -

U.S. DENIES PLEDGE ON YUGOSLAV FOOD: EMBASSY SAID TO HAVE AGREED ONLY TO STUDY REQUEST FOR GRAIN SALE IN CRISIS-Washington-The State Department threw considerable doubt today on Yugoslavia's need for relief grain. This followed a published report from Belgrade that the United States Embassy there had requested the International Emergency Food Council to allot 100,000 tons of grain for purchase by the Yugoslav Government and by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Lincoln White, State Department press officer, read a statement that the Embassy had agreed only to consider and investigate any data the Yugoslav Government might supply in support of the request. The Embassy has made no recommendation to Washington, Mr. White said.

- - - -

10 LBS. OF SUGAR IN RATION APRIL 1; OTC ANNOUNCES VALIDATING OF SPARE STAMP No. 11 UNDER 35 LB. 1947 ALLOWANCE-Washington-The firstten pound sugar stamp, Spare Stamp No. 11 in the family ration book, will be valid April 1, the Office of Temporary Controls announced today.

- - - -

From New York Times, March 11 -

STATE 'CANNOT ACT' OVER BUTTER DEAL; GOLDSTEIN SAYS NEW YORK LAW'S EXCEPT DAIRYMEN FINED BY U.S. ON PRICE MANIPULATION-Albany-Attorney General Nathaniel L. Goldstein informed Governor Dewey today in a special report that butter manipulations of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association last December were "essentially an act in restraint of trade but did not violate present state law."

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 11 -

END OF SUGAR CONTROL SEEN BOOSTING PRICES, CAUSING BUYING RUSH: AMERICAN SUGAR REFINING HEAD TELLS STOCKHOLDERS REGULATION IS NEEDED THROUGH 1947-Elimination of the present sugar control program would undoubtedly cause prices to rise substantially and start a scramble for supplies. This warning was sounded by Joseph F. Abbott, president of the American Sugar Refining Co, in the annual stockholders' report for 1946.

Prompt action is necessary, he contended, to prevent another "boom and bust" situation such as that following the first World War, when prices skyrocketed and then collapsed because of the absence of an orderly program.

Mr. Abbott urged the Government to adopt the following:

1. Provide the American public with substantially more sugar this year, as it has promised.
  2. Continue price and rationing control through 1947.
  3. Announce without delay when controls will end.
  4. Define its policy on further purchases of sugar crops and its plans to provide sugar to foreign countries.
- - - - -

WHEAT'S EXPORT BOOM WILL LET FARMERS DOWN WITH A HEAVY THUD WHEN IT ENDS-And there's no reason to think the "spree" will last beyond the middle of next year. Assuming normal crops next year in Europe and exporting countries, demand for U.S. wheat can shrivel like a blighted leaf. World planners speak of allotting the U.S. an 80 million bushel share of the globe's yearly wheat exports when "normalcy" returns. That's much less than a fourth of this season's shipments of some 350 million bushels. But even so it's several times as much wheat as the world bought here in the lean years of the 1930's. U.S. wheat exports in the three years 1934-37 combined came to only 60 million bushels.

This means one thing: U.S. farmers will have to get quickly out of the habit of growing billion bushel crops after Europe's production comes back, or else face huge surpluses.

- - - - -

POULTRY FLOCKS-Poultry flocks along the East Coast are smitten by widespread pneumonia. Mortality in many flocks is called "wholesale." Starting in the South, the epidemic has moved northward. And there are indications of its moving west. Heavy losses can hoist the cost of a Sunday chicken dinner.

- - - - -



From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Mar. 3 -

**U. S. GETS WHEAT CERTIFICATE PLAN** - A new wheat certificate plan has been proposed to the federal government by M. W. Thatcher, St. Paul, to stabilize the wildly fluctuating grain market.

Thatcher, general manager of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal association, has submitted a five-year version of his plan which was followed last year.

It provides that farmers can trade their wheat for certificates which can be cashed immediately or on a future date at prices then current.

Money received could be credited at the time the certificates are cashed for income tax purposes.

The result, Thatcher believes, would be to steady the grain market and prevent such extreme shifts as last Saturday's boom in wheat futures to the highest point in 27 years on the Minneapolis grain exchange.

Thatcher predicts the plan would achieve these other advantages: Relieve farmers of a strong reason for holding wheat; By release of more wheat from farmers, help ease the present shortage of wheat at terminals; Ease the present general scramble for wheat, steadying the demand; Give mills more wheat.

From Greensboro (N.C.) News, Mar. 2 -

**CPA BLAMED FOR DEARTH OF NITRATES; FARMERS SUFFER, SOLON DECLARES** - Washington - As word was awaited here by North Carolina's congressional delegation on word as to when and where Grace Line ships would discharge cargoes of Chilean nitrates, charges of discrimination against the American farmer in the matter of fertilizer distribution were made from the floor of the House as the congressional week ended.

Representative William M. Whittington (Democrat, Mississippi), said flatly that the War Department and the Civilian Production Administration had failed utterly to take into account the needs of the American farm in over-allocating fertilizer to foreign export both in 1946 and 1947.

Whittington said that despite a disclaimer by the Civilian Production Administration that it had authority over the distribution of ammonium nitrates, it was continuing to use priority to nick the domestic supply.

He said that while every Southern congressman is being deluded with appeals and protests from farmers "who are sympathetic with overseas needs and are paying taxes to alleviate that need through army-operated plants," all that has been obtained in four months from CPA is "confusing statistics."

From Oklahoma City Oklahoman, March 2 -

**MONKEYING WITH DAIRY PRICES** - Editorial - Price supports for dairy products are a headache to the government. Already a support for dry milk powder has been announced, and next will probably be a floor under butter. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson fears a milk shortage.

Undoubtedly the milk producers have had a hard time making both ends meet, but indications are that government monkeying with the law of supply and demand on many fronts is at the bottom of the whole difficulty. Under such monkeying no economic problem ever stays solved.

From Cheyenne Wyoming State Tribune, Feb. 27 -

PORK CHOPS - Editorial - Prospect of dollar-a-pound pork chops is dismissed by a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture.

Consumer resistance, he said, should compel a downturn in meat prices soon.

Housewives will not stand for it, he asserted, referring to skyrocketing pork prices.

Bless the ladies if, should that be necessary, they institute a buyers' strike.

We relish pork chops but if they go to a dollar a pound we will not, of necessity, be having any.

- - - -

From Denver (Colo.) Post, March 1 -

HELPING A NEIGHBOR - Editorial - Self-interest requires that the United States help in every feasible way to stamp out the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in Mexico. Whatever that costs, it may save many times that much for American stockmen, and for the American people as a whole it would safeguard one of their most important sources of food supply.

Thirty-three years ago, nearly 6 million dollars worth of cattle, hogs, sheep and goats were slaughtered and burned or buried in twenty-two states to end such an epidemic. Destruction of infected animals is the only known method of coping with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Boundary lines are no barrier to the spread of foot-and-mouth disease. If it isn't stamped out in Mexico, and quickly, it will spread into the United States with disastrous consequences.

Helping Mexico to combat this epidemic is just like helping to fight a fire, consuming your next door neighbor's house, to save your own home.

- - - -

From Des Moines (Iowa) Tribune, March 1 -

WAITER BUY A TURKEY - Editorial - Here's a hot tip straight from cold storage on how to get the most for your money when dining out - despite the skyrocketing prices for pork chops and pork roasts.

It's simple - just order a turkey dinner!

There were 130 million pounds of prime frozen turkey on hand last Jan 1, the heaviest carry-over on record after the holidays. Most of the birds weighed more than 20 pounds, much too large for the average family.

The public eating places weren't particularly interested. After all, Thanksgiving and Christmas had passed, and the last drop of turkey soup had been drained from the carcass. The Department of Agriculture began to worry about a turkey surplus. Then hog prices began to soar.

Now it is being suggested to harassed operators of restaurants, hotels, and boarding houses that they feature turkey on daily menus as well as for special occasions. The price is reasonable, compared with other meats.

We're heartily in accord. Waiter! Light the candles, dust off the festive decorations -- and make mine turkey!

- - - -



914  
2514  
p2  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 7, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 7 -

PRIMARY MARKETS SHOW PRICE RISES: FOOD INDEX UP 3.1% IN WEEK, WITH THE GENERAL AVERAGE 146.4% OF 1926 MARK-Washington-Substantial increases for agricultural commodities and continued advances for industrial goods raised average primary market prices 1.5 percent during the week ended on March 1, 1947, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. The Bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets reached 146.4 percent of the 1926 average, the highest level since late 1920, but still 12 percent below the May 1920 peak. The index was 4.3 percent above a month earlier and 36.1 percent above a year ago.

Market prices of farm products rose 2.6 percent during the week, reaching a level more than 2 percent higher than their previous peak in late November.

- - - - -

HOUSE GETS NEW BILL FOR SUPPORT OF WOOL-Washington-The House Agriculture Committee, trying to work out a national wool program, got today a new bill--the fifth--to provide support for a lagging industry.

Representative Herter, Republican, of Massachusetts, introduced the new legislation. It would authorize price support through loans or purchases by the Agriculture Department at 90 percent of parity until Dec. 1, 1948 and would permit the department to sell the Government stocks at prices which would compete with foreign wools.

Clinton M. Hester, counsel for the National Wool Trade Association told the committee the trade opposes establishment of quotas on imports, a "comparable" price as a substitute for parity and any legislation which would continue the Government in the wool business.

- - - - -

USDA FOR KEEPING SUGAR CONTROLS-Washington-The Agriculture Department urged Congress today to continue sugar rationing and price control until March 31, 1948 to prevent "inequitable distribution and runaway prices." Unless Congress acts, rationing will cease the end of this month and price controls will lapse June 30. James H. Marshall of the department's sugar branch told the House Banking Committee supplies of 6,800,000 tons and a probable demand of not less than 8,000,000 tons were in prospect.

- - - - -

BAE NOTES SIGNS OF LATE '47SLUMP; AGENCY SAYS IT WILL BE MARKED BY DOWN TURN IN PRICES PARTICULARLY IN FOODS-Washington-The Bureau of Agricultural Economics said today forces now at work seem to indicate a business recession late in 1947 and a downturn in prices, particularly in foods. It said wholesale food prices--which in recent weeks climbed to a record level--may decline from 15 to 20 percent by the end of the year. Farm prices could drop 20 to 25 percent, it added, if the business downturn should come at the time when farm marketings are heavy. The bureau emphasized, however, that "timely downward adjustments" in prices could improve the outlook.

- - - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 7 -

SUGAR INVENTORIES-Sugar inventories of wholesalers will be increased permanently to 10 percent, chains 30 percent and all others 40 percent, effective on March 14, trade sources report. The announcement is expected to be made in Amendment 38. The next sugar stamp to be made valid will be No. 11.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal March 7 -

GRAND UNION MARKETS TODAY URGE SHOPPERS NOT TO PURCHASE PORK-In an unusual move for a retail chain store, the Grand Union Co., with 318 markets in the East, today is urging housewives to buy non pork meats.

A company announcement states:

"In line with keeping prices to the consumer as low as possible, the Grand Union Co. is placing posters in the windows of all Grand Union markets, urging the consumer, as a protest against high live and wholesale pork prices, to buy other meat products. However, pork products will continue to be available at all Grand Union markets."

The company indicated it will promote the sales of beef and lamb meats by emphasizing their lower prices as compared to pork.

- - - - -

FREIGHT CAR ORDERS ROSE IN FEBRUARY, BUT DELIVERIES SHOW DROP-Domestic freight car orders rose in February, but continued shortage of materials cut deliveries in the month 689 cars to total 2,293 cars.

Orders placed last month with car builders and railroad shops, according to S. M. Felton, president of the American Railway Car Institute, totaled 13,727 compared with 9,905 in January. The average per month in 1946 was 5,746 units.

- - - - -

ARGENTINA SHOWS HOW TO MAKE 200% PROFIT ON BIG WHEAT DEALS: THE FORMULA: BUY GRAIN FROM FARMERS AT \$44 A TON, SELL TO HUNGRY BRITAIN FOR \$136-How to make a profit of 200% in business deals with wheat farmers is being demonstrated by the Argentine government, according to London reports from the Comtelburo news agency yesterday.

The procedure is simple: Buy wheat from the farmers for \$44 a ton--sell it to the bread hungry British for \$136 a ton.

Wheat the Argentine government recently sold the British Ministry of Food 500,000 tons of wheat, it was publicly understood that the price was 350 pesos (about \$116) a ton. Yesterday, it was learned, according to Comtelburo that the price was actually 450 pesos a ton--or \$138.

In Argentina the Government buys all the wheat. The farmer sells to the Government or he doesn't sell. And the Government determines the price.

- - - - -



From Denver (Colo.) Post, Feb. 27 -

**CATTLE DISEASE CALLED BIG THREAT** - The presence of hoof-and-mouth disease in Mexico is the most important problem confronting the livestock industry of the nation today, F. E. Mollin, executive secretary, National Livestock association, said here Thursday.

Mollin, who has returned from Washington where he had several conferences with officials of the bureau of animal industry and with western states congressmen, said a fence may be built along the 1,905-mile U. S.-Mexico border if the disease spreads northward from the interior of Mexico. Meanwhile, he pointed out, the border remains permanently closed to all importation of animals or products therefrom subject to the disease until the quarantine is lifted.

- - - - -

From Baltimore (Md.) Evening Sun, Mar. 3 -

**PRICES AND PIGS** - Editorial - The spectacular rise in wholesale prices of pork and wheat last week makes dismal reading for housewives struggling to make food budgets balance. It's particularly depressing news right now because some evidence of price relief on the food front had begun to appear.

Although retail food prices were 41 per cent higher in the middle of last month than they were at the same time in 1946, there had been an appreciable decline from the mid-November peak. Now, while Department of Agriculture experts discount the talk about \$1-a-pound pork, some increase at the meat counters is inevitable as a result of the record \$30-a-hundredweight paid for hogs. There is less prospect of an increase in bread, but the upswing in wheat puts millers and bakers on a spot.

There is some consolation in the fact that the situations in pork and wheat are exceptional and probably temporary. Livestock experts attribute record hog prices to continuing heavy consumer demand and a smaller-than-usual pig crop. Wheat prices, in turn, are held to reflect almost unlimited world demand for wheat and flour, plus winter transportation difficulties in getting wheat to market. These two situations will not obtain for long. Their passing will not obtain for long. Their passing will spotlight the basic problem developing in world agriculture.

- - - - -

From Chicago Times, Feb. 28 -

**TURKEY VS. PORK** - Editorial - Smart housewives whose families are big enough to mangle a turkey in one sitting are using that good bird, the turkey, to a good advantage. With the price of pork chops getting out of this world bargain hunters are hitting a jackpot in the turkey markets.

The local retail price of turkeys at one chain store now is 49 cents a pound for birds under 16 pounds and 39 cents a pound for those over 16. A few months ago, turkeys sold for 72 cents a pound. The price dropped because there is an all-time record of more than 140 million pounds of turkey in cold storage throughout the country.

All of this white-and-dark meat has been piling up because turkey "factories" have been working overtime in every state in the union. All of which has caused the Department of Agriculture to start a campaign to get restaurants and other food dispensers to use more turkey. The situation is certainly a proof of America's bounty. Where else in the world would it be almost a patriotic duty to eat turkey until you gobble?

- - - - -

From Butte Montana Standard, Feb. 26 -

THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING FARM PRICES - Editorial - There is the opinion in informed circles that the Department of Agriculture might have delayed its buying until the price of wheat and corn approached a normal level. In any event, the government by law would be compelled to buy both wheat and corn if the price were to fall below parity during the next two years.

Government buying now has contributed to the rising price of these two farm commodities. Many farmers are of the opinion that the price of both wheat and corn were too high, that such high prices could lead to over-production this year with a consequent slump in market prices. And this in turn would bring about a corresponding loss to the government which is pledged to support farm prices.

In other words the Department of Agriculture is buying wheat and corn, tending to keep the price of these two commodities higher than under normal conditions. Later on, it is quite possible that the wheat and corn could be bought at much lower prices for foreign relief.

Perhaps some of the details of the operations of government agencies will be brought out on the floor of Congress when the appropriation item for maintaining farm prices at parity through 1948 is debated.

- - - - -

From Greenville (S. C.) News, Feb. 26 -

THE NEW PRICE UPSWING - Editorial - A further rise in hog prices to record-breaking levels has highlighted an upward surge in a number of agricultural staples; and the movement leads to more uncertainty as to the near-term future of prices.

The net effect of these price swings can hardly fail to push costs of living, at least in food items, to a new peak; and the movement also seems to augur that farmers' income may not decline this year by as much as some of the economists had expected.

The high hog prices are apparently due to a relatively small hog "crop" for this time of the year, along with a continued high demand for pork even at high retail prices. And grains have moved upward even in the future months, as a result partly of the expectation that farmers will go in heavily for greater hog production this fall, with an unusually strong demand for grain.

With the continuing high domestic demand for food as well as expected heavy exports to countries where food supplies are still very short, the prospects would certainly seem to be that the expected general "break" in prices of farm products is not nearly so close at hand as some were thinking a month or two ago.

- - - - -

From Minneapolis Star Journal, Feb. 26 -

WHY NOT RAISE FLAX? - Editorial - Though 1947 farm production promises surpluses in many lines, it doesn't seem possible that farmers can produce too much flax this year. And, when a comparison is made with other cash crops, it looks as though farmers who raise flax will receive a greater cash return per acre than if they raise some other crop. An examination of the average yield per acre for five crops for Minnesota, the Dakotas and Iowa last year and prices as of late January, shows flax leading the field as a cash crop.

- - - - -



3758  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 7, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

MAR 12 1947

1.914  
A2D14  
(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 7 -

PRIMARY MARKETS SHOW PRICE RISES: FOOD INDEX UP 3.1% IN WEEK, WITH THE GENERAL AVERAGE 146.4% OF 1926 MARK-Washington-Substantial increases for agricultural commodities and continued advances for industrial goods raised average primary market prices 1.5 percent during the week ended on March 1, 1947, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. The Bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets reached 146.4 percent of the 1926 average, the highest level since late 1920, but still 12 percent below the May 1920 peak. The index was 4.3 percent above a month earlier and 36.1 percent above a year ago.

Market prices of farm products rose 2.6 percent during the week, reaching a level more than 2 percent higher than their previous peak in late November.

- - - -

HOUSE GETS NEW BILL FOR SUPPORT OF WOOL-Washington-The House Agriculture Committee, trying to work out a national wool program, got today a new bill--the fifth--to provide support for a lagging industry.

Representative Herter, Republican, of Massachusetts, introduced the new legislation. It would authorize price support through loans or purchases by the Agriculture Department at 90 percent of parity until Dec. 1, 1948 and would permit the department to sell the Government stocks at prices which would compete with foreign wools.

Clinton M. Hester, counsel for the National Wool Trade Association told the committee the trade opposes establishment of quotas on imports; a "comparable" price as a substitute for parity and any legislation which would continue the Government in the wool business.

- - - -

USDA FOR KEEPING SUGAR CONTROLS-Washington-The Agriculture Department urged Congress today to continue sugar rationing and price control until March 31, 1948 to prevent "inequitable distribution and runaway prices." Unless Congress acts, rationing will cease the end of this month and price controls will lapse June 30. James H. Marshall of the department's sugar branch told the House Banking Committee supplies of 6,800,000 tons and a probable demand of not less than 8,000,000 tons were in prospect.

- - - -

BAE NOTES SIGNS OF LATE '47SLUMP; AGENCY SAYS IT WILL BE MARKED BY DOWN TURN IN PRICES PARTICULARLY IN FOODS-Washington-The Bureau of Agricultural Economics said today forces now at work seem to indicate a business recession late in 1947 and a downturn in prices, particularly in foods. It said wholesale food prices--which in recent weeks climbed to a record level--may decline from 15 to 20 percent by the end of the year. Farm prices could drop 20 to 25 percent, it added, if the business downturn should come at the time when farm marketings are heavy. The bureau emphasized, however, that "timely downward adjustments" in prices could improve the outlook.

- - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 7 -

SUGAR INVENTORIES-Sugar inventories of wholesalers will be increased permanently to 10 percent, chains 30 percent and all others 40 percent, effective on March 14, trade sources report. The announcement is expected to be made in Amendment 38. The next sugar stamp to be made valid will be No. 11.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal March 7 -

GRAND UNION MARKETS TODAY URGE SHOPPERS NOT TO PURCHASE PORK-In an unusual move for a retail chain store, the Grand Union Co., with 318 markets in the East, today is urging housewives to buy non pork meats.

A company announcement states:

"In line with keeping prices to the consumer as low as possible, the Grand Union Co. is placing posters in the windows of all Grand Union markets, urging the consumer, as a protest against high live and wholesale pork prices, to buy other meat products. However, pork products will continue to be available at all Grand Union markets."

The company indicated it will promote the sales of beef and lamb meats by emphasizing their lower prices as compared to pork.

- - - - -

FREIGHT CAR ORDERS ROSE IN FEBRUARY BUT DELIVERIES SHOW DROP-Domestic freight car orders rose in February, but continued shortage of materials cut deliveries in the month 689 cars to total 2,293 cars.

Orders placed last month with car builders and railroad shops, according to S. M. Felton, president of the American Railway Car Institute, totaled 13,727 compared with 9,905 in January. The average per month in 1946 was 5,746 units.

- - - - -

ARGENTINA SHOWS HOW TO MAKE 200% PROFIT ON BIG WHEAT DEALS: THE FORMULA: BUY GRAIN FROM FARMERS AT \$44 A TON, SELL TO HUNGRY BRITAIN FOR \$136-How to make a profit of 200% in business deals with wheat farmers is being demonstrated by the Argentine government, according to London reports from the Comtelburo news agency yesterday.

The procedure is simple: Buy wheat from the farmers for \$44 a ton--sell it to the bread hungry British for \$136 a ton.

When the Argentine government recently sold the British Ministry of Food 500,000 tons of wheat, it was publicly understood that the price was 350 pesos (about \$116) a ton. Yesterday, it was learned, according to Comtelburo that the price was actually 450 pesos a ton--or \$138.

In Argentina the Government buys all the wheat. The farmer sells to the Government or he doesn't sell. And the Government determines the price.

- - - - -



From Denver (Colo.) Post, Feb. 27 -

**CATTLE DISEASE CALLED BIG THREAT** - The presence of hoof-and-mouth disease in Mexico is the most important problem confronting the livestock industry of the nation today, F. E. Mollin, executive secretary, National Livestock association, said here Thursday.

Mollin, who has returned from Washington where he had several conferences with officials of the bureau of animal industry and with western states congressmen, said a fence may be built along the 1,905-mile U. S.-Mexico border if the disease spreads northward from the interior of Mexico. Meanwhile, he pointed out, the border remains permanently closed to all importation of animals or products therefrom subject to the disease until the quarantine is lifted.

- - - - -

From Baltimore (Md.) Evening Sun, Mar. 3 -

**PRICES AND PIGS** - Editorial - The spectacular rise in wholesale prices of pork and wheat last week makes dismal reading for housewives struggling to make food budgets balance. It's particularly depressing news right now because some evidence of price relief on the food front had begun to appear.

Although retail food prices were 41 per cent higher in the middle of last month than they were at the same time in 1946, there had been an appreciable decline from the mid-November peak. Now, while Department of Agriculture experts discount the talk about \$1-a-pound pork, some increase at the meat counters is inevitable as a result of the record \$30-a-hundredweight paid for hogs. There is less prospect of an increase in bread, but the upswing in wheat puts millers and bakers on a spot.

There is some consolation in the fact that the situations in pork and wheat are exceptional and probably temporary. Livestock experts attribute record hog prices to continuing heavy consumer demand and a smaller-than-usual pig crop. Wheat prices, in turn, are held to reflect almost unlimited world demand for wheat and flour, plus winter transportation difficulties in getting wheat to market. These two situations will not obtain for long. Their passing will not obtain for long. Their passing will spotlight the basic problem developing in world agriculture.

- - - - -

From Chicago Times, Feb. 28 -

**TURKEY VS. PORK** - Editorial - Smart housewives whose families are big enough to mangle a turkey in one sitting are using that good bird, the turkey, to a good advantage. With the price of pork chops getting out of this world bargain hunters are hitting a jackpot in the turkey markets.

The local retail price of turkeys at one chain store now is 49 cents a pound for birds under 16 pounds and 39 cents a pound for those over 16. A few months ago, turkeys sold for 72 cents a pound. The price dropped because there is an all-time record of more than 140 million pounds of turkey in cold storage throughout the country.

All of this white-and-dark meat has been piling up because turkey "factories" have been working overtime in every state in the union. All of which has caused the Department of Agriculture to start a campaign to get restaurants and other food dispensers to use more turkey. The situation is certainly a proof of America's bounty. Where else in the world would it be almost a patriotic duty to eat turkey until you gobble?

- - - - -

From Butte Montana Standard, Feb. 26 -

THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING FARM PRICES - Editorial - There is the opinion in informed circles that the Department of Agriculture might have delayed its buying until the price of wheat and corn approached a normal level. In any event, the government by law would be compelled to buy both wheat and corn if the price were to fall below parity during the next two years.

Government buying now has contributed to the rising price of these two farm commodities. Many farmers are of the opinion that the price of both wheat and corn were too high, that such high prices could lead to over-production this year with a consequent slump in market prices. And this in turn would bring about a corresponding loss to the government which is pledged to support farm prices.

In other words the Department of Agriculture is buying wheat and corn, tending to keep the price of these two commodities higher than under normal conditions. Later on, it is quite possible that the wheat and corn could be bought at much lower prices for foreign relief.

Perhaps some of the details of the operations of government agencies will be brought out on the floor of Congress when the appropriation item for maintaining farm prices at parity through 1948 is debated.

- - - - -

From Greenville (S. C.) News, Feb. 26 -

THE NEW PRICE UPSWING - Editorial - A further rise in hog prices to record-breaking levels has highlighted an upward surge in a number of agricultural staples; and the movement leads to more uncertainty as to the near-term future of prices.

The net effect of these price swings can hardly fail to push costs of living, at least in food items, to a new peak; and the movement also seems to augur that farmers' income may not decline this year by as much as some of the economists had expected.

The high hog prices are apparently due to a relatively small hog "crop" for this time of the year, along with a continued high demand for pork even at high retail prices. And grains have moved upward even in the future months, as a result partly of the expectation that farmers will go in heavily for greater hog production this fall, with an unusually strong demand for grain.

With the continuing high domestic demand for food as well as expected heavy exports to countries where food supplies are still very short, the prospects would certainly seem to be that the expected general "break" in prices of farm products is not nearly so close at hand as some were thinking a month or two ago.

- - - - -

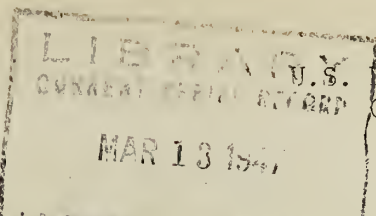
From Minneapolis Star Journal, Feb. 26 -

WHY NOT RAISE FLAX? - Editorial - Though 1947 farm production promises surpluses in many lines, it doesn't seem possible that farmers can produce too much flax this year. And, when a comparison is made with other cash crops, it looks as though farmers who raise flax will receive a greater cash return per acre than if they raise some other crop. An examination of the average yield per acre for five crops for Minnesota, the Dakotas and Iowa last year and prices as of late January, shows flax leading the field as a cash crop.

- - - - -



DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 10, 1947)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 10 -

**BREAD PRICES RISE THROUGHOUT NATION: GENERAL INCREASE OF  $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 CENTS A LOAF SEEN**-Chicago-AP-Bread prices are rising, a survey of United States cities showed today.

Increased cost of ingredients, combined with the overseas demand for wheat and flour, are expected to bring price advances above those already made in some cities.

Price increases noted during the recent advance in wheat varied from one-half cent a loaf to 3 cents, depending on the size of the loaf. Baking interests indicated that the increase would become general throughout the country.

-----

**YUGOSLAV HUNGER AT CRITICAL STAGE: U.S. ENDORSES AID**-Belgrade-The United States Embassy agreed today to request the International Emergency Food Council to supply 100,000 tons of grain to Yugoslavia. The need was described by an official of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration as "the worst crisis in the country since the Germans left a devastated land."

The country has suddenly awakened to the threat of starvation among 5,000,000 persons in the deficiency areas of Bosnia, Hercegovina, Dalmatia and parts of Slovenia. The area is roughly the entire mountainous region of the country and was hardest hit at the beginning of UNRRA's operations two years ago.

-----

**HITS U.S. DEALINGS WITH PUERTO RICO: SUGAR EVER ON DEFENSIVE WITH U.S.**-Washington-The Foreign Policy Association asserted tonight that lack of a clear United States policy toward Puerto Rico was to blame for many of the island's economic problems.

The report was written by Olive Holmes of the FPA staff after a study of Puerto Rican problems.

Miss Holmes asserted that uncertainty about Puerto Rico's future relationship with the United States "adversely affects its sugar culture, the island's main economic crop."

"The island's highcost sugar industry," she said, "is continually on the defensive in Washington against the Western best area, the Louisiana and Florida cane growers with their vocal lobbies and the Cuban interests with their State Department support."

"Puerto Ricans are generally dissatisfied with the existing production and marketing arrangements. In time sugar production will become highly mechanized and, as such, a high wage industry providing revenue but fewer opportunities for employment."

-----

From New York Times, March 10 --

HITS U.S. TRADE PROGRAM: BESSE CALLS IT ECONOMIC AGGRESSION, NOT PEACE PROMOTION-The current emphasis which the United States is putting on foreign trade is economic aggression rather than promotion of peace. Arthur Besse, president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, stated yesterday following his election to the presidency of the American Products Council.

Mr. Besse criticized President Truman's recent speech advocating reduction of American tariffs on the basis that all the nations of the world are much concerned lest the drive of the United States for increased markets abroad will deprive them of the markets they need. The proposed International Trade Charter, he said, takes the control of foreign trade of the United States right out of this country's hands.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 10 -

SENATE GROUP VOTES SUGAR EXTENSION: WOULD RETAIN RATIONING TILL MARCH 31, '49 UNDER USDA AND 'HISTORICAL USE' FORMULA-Washington-A one year extension of sugar rationing and price controls was recommended to the Senate yesterday by its Banking Committee by a 10 to 3 vote.

At the same time the committee recommended that administration of sugar controls be shifted from the OPA to the Agriculture Department as soon as the extension becomes law.

Senator Flanders (Rep. Vt.) who told reporters about the decision after a lengthy closed door session, said that the Agriculture Department had assured Senators that every housewife would receive 35 pounds of sugar this year, or 10 pounds more than allowed under rationing last year.

Flanders said that there also would be more sugar available for condensed milk "to avoid dumping milk down the drain" for lack of sugar to preserve it.

The Senator said that industrial allocation of sugar to bakers, candy-makers, bottlers and others would be "less rigid" than formerly although the so called "historical base" would be retained.

- - - -

HARVESTER PRICE CUTS HERALD INDUSTRY ANSWER TO RESISTANCE-Chicago-New indications that industry is preparing to take preventive measures to head off a recession resulting from consumer resistance is seen in the action of International Harvester Corp. in reducing prices by \$20,000,000 a year.

The action of International Harvester, announced over the weekend by Fowler McCormick, chairman of the board, was regarded as doubly significant, since the company had previously increased prices only 20 percent since 1941. This is less than half of the 62 percent rise in all manufactured goods reported by the Government since 1941.

Moreover, there are no signs of consumer resistance to farm equipment prices, such as have been manifested recently in soft goods and some consumers durable goods. Even before the Harvester price reduction, leaders of the farm equipment industry indicated that they expected sales of farm equipment this year to touch the \$1,000,000,000 mark for the first time.

- - - -



From Topeka (Kans.) Capital, Feb. 28 -

WAIL AND NOAN AT HIGH PRICES BUT IT WOUL'D DO ANY GOOD - Housewives may stage a sitdown strike on rising pork prices, but Topeka meat merchants gloomily doubted Thursday that it would do them much good.

It's the demand from both coasts, especially the East, that is causing the price to zoom, according to Earnest Dibble of the Dibble stores. Customer resistance may be expected, but it will not make much difference here, he predicted. Consumers in the East and West will probably continue to buy at high prices, draining whatever effect buyer resistance in the Midwest might have.

Wayne Baker, manager of the meat department at Green's grocery, 813 Kansas, said the housewife's objection to pork and bacon prices is still mostly in the talking stage. He has heard a lot of complaining and questioning, but women have kept right on buying. As a matter of fact, the effect of the price rise has hardly been felt so far.

- - - -

From Charleston (S.C.) News and Courier, Feb. 28 -

MEAT SCARCITIES BLAMED ON HIGH PURCHASING POWER - Rising meat prices are due to scarcities caused by high purchasing power, J. B. Larisey, assistant Manager of Armour and company's Charleston branch, told Civitans of St. Philip's and St. Michael's parish at their meeting yesterday.

- - - -

From Atlanta (Ga.) Journal, Feb. 27 -

HOMING CHICKENS - Editorial - Chickens seldom fail to come home to roost. The barnyard metaphor may be a bit mixed but for example look at the price of pork. The American people brought \$30 hogs on themselves when last summer their cries of discontent, amplified and directionally beamed by members of Congress, resulted in the destruction of price control.

President Truman and Chester Bowles warned the people of the consequence but nobody listened. Free markets and free enterprise must be reinstated immediately.

One of the many upshots was that the growers of swine hustled their little pigs off to market as rapidly as they could after controls were lifted last summer.

Now we are paying the penalty in the price of pork, just as we are paying in many another matter.

- - - -

From St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mar. 2 -

PREDICTION OF SCARCITY OF PORK UNTIL OCTOBER - A scarcity of pork until next October was predicted yesterday by W. R. Huitt, secretary of the St. Louis Livestock Exchange. Commenting after seeing the February report of the Producers' Livestock Commission Association, Huitt said supplies of beef are expected to be maintained at present levels. Huitt said about 50 percent of the 1946 spring pig crop already had been marketed, which indicated an even greater shortage of pork next April. He said he doubted pork prices would increase to \$1 per pound, the price recently predicted by the Labor Department.

- - - -

From Boise Idaho Statesman, Feb. 26 -

HIGH-PRICED PORK - Editorial - All-time high pork prices on the Chicago market, which is the forerunner of more expensive pork chops, ham and bacon, are not at all surprising. The circumstances that would cause this situation were plain as day three and four years ago and despite the fact the men who controlled OPA were told about it by leading pork raisers from all parts of the nation there was no change in perhaps one of the most amazing blunders of the price control system.

There will be a number of reasons offered as to why the price of pork is now so high. Most of them will be efforts to cloud the issue. Here are the real reasons for the present high price of pork:

OPA held firm ceiling on hog prices.

OPA did not hold ceiling on feed prices.

The hog raiser could not pay the doubled price for feed and raise pork to sell at OPA ceilings. Consequently breeding herds were sold to a point that today we have a shortage of pork. Until the hog-raising industry can increase hog production to somewhere meet the demand, pork prices will stay high.

Supply and demand -- the sound and solid fundamentals of our American system -- control the price of pork and everything else.

Men in a bureau failed and the public pays the bill.

- - - -

From Madison (Wisc.) Capital Times, Feb. 27 -

YOU ASKED FOR IT - Editorial - Incensed Madison citizens gathered at the city library the other night to discuss what steps to take to ward off the shattering impact on the family budget of the skyrocketing price of meat.

While the group that met at the library the other night cannot be blamed for lack of interest in the issue of price control, the public itself is to blame that only the inferior cuts of meat are selling today at 50 cents a pound or less.

The people swallowed the propaganda of those who were out to kill OPA last October during the meat strike. They allowed the big packers and the big newspapers to convince them that OPA was a bureaucratic monstrosity and that the law of supply and demand would take care of sky-rocketing prices.

Five months have elapsed since price controls on meat were killed. Where is the law of supply and demand? Is it reflected in the reports that pork chops are going up to \$1 a pound?

You joined in the hue and cry to massacre OPA. You asked for it. And now you're getting it.

- - - -

From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, Feb. 26 -

GRUBS FACING ROUGHER YEAR; MORE CATTLE SPRAYING IS IN PROSPECT - There probably will be more cattle spraying done this year than ever before.

One reason is the availability of new and better insecticides and the equipment for applying them.

Another is the educational campaign that has been carried on by such men as Dr. W. T. Spencer, regional manager of the Livestock Loss Prevention Board. Grubs, flies, lice cost American beef and dairy products producers annually an amount of money estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. Grubs alone cost farmers something like 150 million dollars.

- - - -



1.914

92 D14

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 11, 1947)

MAR 13 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 417A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 11 -

U.S. DELEGATION NAMED FOR WORLD WHEAT TALKS-Washington-Leslie A. Wheeler will be chairman of the International Wheat Conference, which will meet in London on March 18, according to an announcement today at the State Department.

Mr. Wheeler is director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Department of Agriculture.

Other members of the delegation were announced as Carl C. Farrington assistant administrator of the Agriculture Department's Production and Marketing Administration; Edward G. Cale, associate chief of the State Department's Division of International Resources, and Paul O. Nyhus, agricultural attache to the United States Embassy in London.

The conference will endeavor to develop equitable international wheat prices, adequate wheat supplies, wheat reserves through national stocks, avoidance of burdensome wheat surpluses and diversion of land unsuitable for wheat to other crops.

-----

U.S. AID TO AUSTRIA VITAL, HOOVER FINDS: \$155,000,000 FOR RELIEF URGED-Washington-Herbert Hoover recommended today the allotment of \$155,000,000 in emergency relief for Austria for April 1, 1947, to July 1, 1948. In a report, made public today, on his study of the Austrian phase of relief needs in the occupied area of Europe under American jurisdiction, he said this sum did not cover industrial rehabilitation.

-----

U.S. DENIES PLEDGE ON YUGOSLAV FOOD: EMBASSY SAID TO HAVE AGREED ONLY TO STUDY REQUEST FOR GRAIN SALE IN CRISIS-Washington-The State Department threw considerable doubt today on Yugoslavia's need for relief grain. This followed a published report from Belgrade that the United States Embassy there had requested the International Emergency Food Council to allot 100,000 tons of grain for purchase by the Yugoslav Government and by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Lincoln White, State Department press officer, read a statement that the Embassy had agreed only to consider and investigate any data the Yugoslav Government might supply in support of the request. The Embassy has made no recommendation to Washington, Mr. White said.

-----

10 LBS. OF SUGAR IN RATION APRIL 1; OTC ANNOUNCES VALIDATING OF SPARE STAMP No. 11 UNDER 35 LB. 1947 ALLOWANCE-Washington-The first ten pound sugar stamp, Spare Stamp No. 11 in the family ration book, will be valid April 1, the Office of Temporary Controls announced today.

-----

From New York Times, March 11 -

STATE 'CANNOT ACT' OVER BUTTER DEAL; GOLDSTEIN SAYS NEW YORK LAW'S EXCEPT DAIRYMEN FINED BY U.S. ON PRICE MANIPULATION-Albany-Attorney General Nathaniel L. Goldstein informed Governor Dewey today in a special report that butter manipulations of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association last December were "essentially an act in restraint of trade but did not violate present state law."

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 11 -

END OF SUGAR CONTROL SEEN BOOSTING PRICES, CAUSING BUYING RUSH: AMERICAN SUGAR REFINING HEAD TELLS STOCKHOLDERS REGULATION IS NEEDED THROUGH 1947-Elimination of the present sugar control program would undoubtedly cause prices to rise substantially and start a scramble for supplies. This warning was sounded by Joseph F. Abbott, president of the American Sugar Refining Co, in the annual stockholders' report for 1946.

Prompt action is necessary, he contended, to prevent another "boom and bust" situation such as that following the first World War, when prices skyrocketed and then collapsed because of the absence of an orderly program.

Mr. Abbott urged the Government to adopt the following:

1. Provide the American public with substantially more sugar this year, as it has promised.
  2. Continue price and rationing control through 1947.
  3. Announce without delay when controls will end.
  4. Define its policy on further purchases of sugar crops and its plans to provide sugar to foreign countries.
- - - - -

WHEAT'S EXPORT BOOM WILL LET FARMERS DOWN WITH A HEAVY THUD WHEN IT ENDS-And there's no reason to think the "spree" will last beyond the middle of next year. Assuming normal crops next year in Europe and exporting countries, demand for U.S. wheat can shrivel like a blighted leaf. World planners speak of allotting the U.S. an 80 million bushel share of the globe's yearly wheat exports when "normalcy" returns. That's much less than a fourth of this season's shipments of some 350 million bushels. But even so it's several times as much wheat as the world bought here in the lean years of the 1930's. U.S. wheat exports in the three years 1934-37 combined came to only 60 million bushels.

This means one thing: U.S. farmers will have to get quickly out of the habit of growing billion bushel crops after Europe's production comes back, or else face huge surpluses.

- - - - -

POULTRY FLOCKS-Poultry flocks along the East Coast are smitten by widespread pneumonia. Mortality in many flocks is called "wholesale." Starting in the South, the epidemic has moved northward. And there are indications of its moving west. Heavy losses can hoist the cost of a Sunday chicken dinner.

- - - - -



From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Mar. 3 -

**U. S. GETS WHEAT CERTIFICATE PLAN** - A new wheat certificate plan has been proposed to the federal government by M. W. Thatcher, St. Paul, to stabilize the wildly fluctuating grain market.

Thatcher, general manager of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal association, has submitted a five-year version of his plan which was followed last year.

It provides that farmers can trade their wheat for certificates which can be cashed immediately or on a future date at prices then current.

Money received could be credited at the time the certificates are cashed for income tax purposes.

The result, Thatcher believes, would be to steady the grain market and prevent such extreme shifts as last Saturday's boom in wheat futures to the highest point in 27 years on the Minneapolis grain exchange.

Thatcher predicts the plan would achieve these other advantages: Relieve farmers of a strong reason for holding wheat; By release of more wheat from farmers, help ease the present shortage of wheat at terminals; Ease the present general scramble for wheat, steadying the demand; Give mills more wheat.

From Greensboro (N.C.) News, Mar. 2 -

**CPA BLAMED FOR DEARTH OF NITRATES; FARMERS SUFFER, SOLON DECLARES** - Washington - As word was awaited here by North Carolina's congressional delegation on word as to when and where Grace Line ships would discharge cargoes of Chilean nitrates, charges of discrimination against the American farmer in the matter of fertilizer distribution were made from the floor of the House as the congressional week ended.

Representative William M. Whittington (Democrat, Mississippi), said flatly that the War Department and the Civilian Production Administration had failed utterly to take into account the needs of the American farm in over-allocating fertilizer to foreign export both in 1946 and 1947.

Whittington said that despite a disclaimer by the Civilian Production Administration that it had authority over the distribution of ammonium nitrates, it was continuing to use priority to nick the domestic supply.

He said that while every Southern congressman is being deluded with appeals and protests from farmers "who are sympathetic with overseas needs and are paying taxes to alleviate that need through army-operated plants," all that has been obtained in four months from CPA is "confusing statistics."

From Oklahoma City Oklahoman, March 2 -

**MONKEYING WITH DAIRY PRICES** - Editorial - Price supports for dairy products are a headache to the government. Already a support for dry milk powder has been announced, and next will probably be a floor under butter. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson fears a milk shortage.

Undoubtedly the milk producers have had a hard time making both ends meet, but indications are that government monkeying with the law of supply and demand on many fronts is at the bottom of the whole difficulty. Under such monkeying no economic problem ever stays solved.

From Cheyenne Wyoming State Tribune, Feb. 27 -

PORK CHOPS - Editorial - Prospect of dollar-a-pound pork chops is dismissed by a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture.

Consumer resistance, he said, should compel a downturn in meat prices soon.

Housewives will not stand for it, he asserted, referring to skyrocketing pork prices.

Bless the ladies if, should that be necessary, they institute a buyers' strike.

We relish pork chops but if they go to a dollar a pound we will not, of necessity, be having any.

- - - - -

From Denver (Colo.) Post, March 1 -

HELPING A NEIGHBOR - Editorial - Self-interest requires that the United States help in every feasible way to stamp out the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in Mexico. Whatever that costs, it may save many times that much for American stockmen, and for the American people as a whole it would safeguard one of their most important sources of food supply.

Thirty-three years ago, nearly 6 million dollars worth of cattle, hogs, sheep and goats were slaughtered and burned or buried in twenty-two states to end such an epidemic. Destruction of infected animals is the only known method of coping with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Boundary lines are no barrier to the spread of foot-and-mouth disease. If it isn't stamped out in Mexico, and quickly, it will spread into the United States with disastrous consequences.

Helping Mexico to combat this epidemic is just like helping to fight a fire, consuming your next door neighbor's house, to save your own home.

- - - - -

From Des Moines (Iowa) Tribune, March 1 -

WANTA BUY A TURKEY - Editorial - Here's a hot tip straight from cold storage on how to get the most for your money when dining out - despite the skyrocketing prices for pork chops and pork roasts.

It's simple - just order a turkey dinner!

There were 130 million pounds of prime frozen turkey on hand last Jan 1, the heaviest carry-over on record after the holidays. Most of the birds weighed more than 20 pounds, much too large for the average family.

The public eating places weren't particularly interested. After all, Thanksgiving and Christmas had passed, and the last drop of turkey soup had been drained from the carcass. The Department of Agriculture began to worry about a turkey surplus. Then hog prices began to soar.

Now it is being suggested to harassed operators of restaurants, hotels, and boarding houses that they feature turkey on daily menus as well as for special occasions. The price is reasonable, compared with other meats.

We're heartily in accord. Waiter! Light the candles, dust off the festive decorations -- and make mine turkey!

- - - - -



Recd:

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST

(For March 14, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

MAR 15 1947

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 14 -

ACTION SET TO BAR POTATO SURPLUSES: AGRICULTURE AGENCY MAY SELL PRODUCT TO CONSUMERS AT LESS THAN SUPPORT PRICES-Washington-The Agriculture Department moved today to curb possible potato surpluses by devising a "big stick" formula whereby, if necessary, it will sell potatoes at less than the support price at which the Government acquires them.

The department's plan included the following succinct statement on policy:

"Potatoes acquired under the price support program will be subject to resale in consumer markets at less than support prices."

This feature of the new program would act against those growers who might not enter into acreage agreements in expectation that the Government support price or more would prevail in consumer markets. With the Government prepared to sell at less than the support price, growers thus could not count on a price for production outside the program.

The department is endeavoring to prevent potato surpluses by regulating production and agreeing to buy the produce of cooperating growers at stipulated prices if the market falls below those figures.

- - - -

STRACHEY CHEERFUL OVER FOOD OUTLOOK-London-Barring unforeseen developments Great Britain will weather the coming six months without critical developments in her food supply, John Strachey, Minister of Food, said tonight upon his return from the United States and Canada. He added that the present ration scales for bread and meat would continue.

The Food Minister reported himself as well pleased with the results of his trip.

Mr. Strachey said American officials had been most cooperative and that heavy shipments of wheat from the United States to help Britain build a stockpile against next winter's hazards had been assured.

Asked concerning his reported purchase of 10,000 tons of turkeys, the Food Minister said that the deal had not been formally closed. He said that the turkeys acquired would be purchased at the Department of Agriculture's support price and the price would be comparable to prices he would pay for American beef.

- - - -

ABSOLVES TRADERS IN BREAK IN COTTON: ANDERSON FINDS NO MANIPULATION--SUGGESTS EXCHANGES INCREASE MARGINS-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson urged today further corrective measures to prevent excess speculation on the cotton futures markets in making public his department's official report on last October's debacle. The investigators found that the basic trouble that led to the collapse of cotton was one for which the Commodities Exchange Act provides no controls. No evidence was found of manipulative effort to "break" the market. Instead, the crash was due to a soft structure built on speculation. Involved were many small accounts of "thinly margined speculative buyers from every major section of the country." Larger margins were pronounced the obvious remedy and one which is possible for the exchanges themselves to apply, department officials pointed out.

Farm Digest 515-47

From New York Times, March 14 -

APPEALS IN RICE SHORTAGE: 'WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ASKS MANY LANDS TO HELP BAR FAMINE-Washington-The International Emergency Food Council said today that the world rice shortage was becoming worse and asked producing countries to help meet the emergency.

In a communication to Governments of all countries where rice is grown the IEFC said that for the current crop year ending June 30, world import rice available and allotted by the IEFC amounts to 2,800,000 metric tons.

"This amount has to supply nations whose prewar imports were more than 7,700,000 metric tons," the communication said, "and which now have larger populations to feed than before the war."

"If famines are to be avoided it is apparent greater efforts must be made."

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 14 -

ANDERSON ASKS ACTION TO HALT 'SPECULATION' IN COMMODITIES-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson called tonight for "further corrective measures" to curb "speculative excesses" in the nation's commodity markets.

This reference to commodity speculation, made in a formal statement was Anderson's second in two days.

In a radio interview last night, he said he believed speculation is "talking loudly" in the grain market, which has been marked by sharp price increases in recent weeks.

Anderson made no specific proposals; however, beyond one now pending before the Commodity Exchange Commission to reduce speculative holdings of cotton futures.

- - - -

U.S. WHEAT STOCK FACES NEW DRAIN-Washington-Because the United States is rapidly becoming the only country from which foreign buyers of wheat can expect substantial and prompt shipments this summer, export demands on the new winter wheat crop are expected to exceed even the heavy movement of last summer, leading agricultural economists here believe.

Both Canada and Argentina are reported to have failed to ship the quantities of wheat predicted for movement from these countries earlier in the crop year, and several European nations now face the alternative of reducing their bread rations or coming into the U.S. market for substantial deliveries in July, August and September.

- - - -

CHARGES FOOD MANUFACTURERS MISLEAD PUBLIC ON SUGAR-Washington-Charging that there is no sugar shortage and that hence sugar rationing is unnecessary, Walter S. Mack, Jr., president of Pepsi Cola Co., today alleged that the American people are being deliberately given a false picture of sugar availability and supplies. Appearing before the House Banking and Currency Committee Mr. Mack contended that with the Cuban sugar crop the largest in history, there is actually a surplus.

Manufacturers of sugar containing products, he charged, are spreading a "false picture" of the sugar situation to keep the American public on short sugar rations because this meant that the housewife would not be able to <sup>do</sup> her own home canning and preserving and is thus forced to buy the manufacturers' expensive finished products on which there are no price ceilings.

- - - -



From Trainman News, Mar. 8 -

**CAR 'SHORTAGE' PHONY; TRAINS HELD FOR TONNAGE, - BLAME FOR SLUGGISH FREIGHT MOVEMENT IS PLACED ON CARRIERS** - Evidence that the so-called "shortage" of freight cars is largely phony piled up at Grand Lodge headquarters in Cleveland this week as Trainmen News went to press.

Reports from hundreds of BRT members throughout the U. S. and Canada showed that the real reason for sluggish movement of raw materials and finished products to factories and retail outlets was gross inefficiency and mishandling of rolling stock by railroad management.

The letters indicated that carriers are holding box cars at terminals to make up excessively long and unsafe trains. That this practice is widespread was proved by the many specific examples cited by Bretherhood members.

"Undoubtedly some new equipment is needed by the carriers," President Whitney said, "but the problem could be quickly solved for the time being at least if railroads would streamline their handling of cars at terminals and discontinue the practice of holding for tonnage trains."

- - - - -

From Roanoke (Va.) Times, Mar. 6 -

**DAIRYMEN EXPRESS NEED FOR STATE LABORATORY** - Dr. E. E. Thompson, Salem veterinarian, stressed the need for a state laboratory in Roanoke, particularly for mastitis testing, in an address at a meeting of the Roanoke county dairy conference committee yesterday.

In regard to Dr. Thompson's statement, C. D. M. Showalter emphasized the conference committee has been working for the establishment of such a laboratory here and announced that a representative of the state veterinary department will be here for a week soon to test cows. Tests will be made at the small laboratory at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  Franklin road and Showalter urged the dairymen to take advantage of the testing offer.

Discussing various cattle diseases, Dr. Thompson urged the group to aid in preventing the entry of foot and mouth disease in the United States by cooperating in the move to combat the disease in Mexico.

- - - - -

From Topeka (Kans.) Capital, Mar. 5 -

**HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE** - Editorial - Cattle growers, especially in the Southwest, are alarmed at the spread of the hoof and mouth disease in Mexico. They are afraid that it will spread across the Rio Grande, even though importation of cattle from Mexico has been banned. Congress has authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to spend funds to help Mexico eradicate or minimize the disease within its own borders.

All consumers in the United States should be alarmed, too. If large numbers of cattle in the United States have to be slaughtered to prevent the spread of hoof-and-mouth, meat will become scarcer and meat prices will be even higher.

The disease is highly contagious and difficult to suppress. It is hard to detect in its early stages, and infected animals may spread it before they show symptoms. Most forms do not cause heavy mortality, but infected animals lose weight and have to be re-fattened. Infected cows give no milk for a time, perhaps never again.

- - - - -

From Portland (Me.) Press Herald, Mar. 6 -

**DOUBLE VALUE** - It is, of course, natural for Portland to view with approval announcement of the Government's decision to ship 85,000 tons of seed potatoes out of this port. That is a considerable undertaking, and will spread no small measure of prosperity along the waterfront where a longish period of idleness has created dismay and hardship.

It is not to be overlooked, however, that the decision to ship the potatoes is of immense benefit to the growers, and will spread no small rewards where but a few days ago the outlook was for plowing the remaining, unsold part of Arrostook's huge crop back into the soil. If Senator Brewster is equally successful in getting the army to buy 10,000,000 bushels of table potatoes for export abroad, Maine farmers will find their path greatly smoothed.

The potatoes, both seed and table, are to go to Germany as part of the new realization that the people in the American Zone and others must be fed and be enabled eventually to feed themselves. There has been a deal of shilly-shallying over this simple piece of common sense. We balked, officially, at doing too much to make the German lot easier; sometimes there seemed to be in our attitude something of the Morgenthau punitive plan. Gone, too, are the old bits of nonsense about the "unshippability" of potatoes. We're on the ball at last, and everybody profits, except the United States Treasury; and perhaps that will profit also through shortening the time we have to stay in Germany and decreasing the occupation bill.

-----  
From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Mar. 7 -

**FARM LAND PRICES LEVELING OFF** - Editorial - More authoritative testimony has been added to recent warning that continued speculation in farm lands may well lead to a recurrence of the tragic '20s, when foreclosures and sheriffs' sales were the order of the day.

"There are now indications that farm real estate prices are beginning to level off after the rapid increases of the war years," reports the Monthly Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

"On November 1 the index of value per acre of farm land in the six States (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, which comprise the Sixth Federal Reserve District), based on the 1935-39 period, had risen to 198. Since that date the available evidence strongly suggests, activity in the land market has decreased, with little change in land prices. The upward trend of land values may be continuing in some sections, but it appears that the peak of the land boom has been reached in the District as a whole."

-----  
From Huntsville (Ala.) Times, Mar. 7 -

**GOOD EXAMPLE** - Editorial - Decentralization of industry is no cure-all for economic problems of the less prosperous sections of the country, but Mississippi's experience with its Balance Agriculture With Industry act demonstrates what can be achieved through developing new industries in rural areas.

The state's program for encouraging industries is credited with having helped in the establishment of 100 new industries in 30 months. Payrolls for these new enterprises amount to about \$10,000,000 annually, and additional employment opportunities will be created as negotiations are completed for more plants.



7.914  
A2D14  
10p2  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 18, 1947)

LIBRARY  
MAR 21 1947  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 18 -

U.S. SIGNS PACT ON MEXICAN CATTLE: ANDERSON REVEALS ACTION IN FIGHT ON HOOF-MOUTH DISEASE--\$9,000,000 ASKED--Washington--Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced today that he had signed the Sanitary Agreement setting up the joint United States Mexican campaign against the foot and mouth disease outbreak in Mexico.

He said that he had asked the Budget Bureau for a \$9,000,000,000 appropriation to cover the costs until June 30 and that the Mexican Government would match funds on a 50-50 basis.

The Secretary's remarks, made at a luncheon given by Representative George W. Gillie, Republican, of Indiana, in honor of the Mexican members of the Joint Agriculture Commission, marked the conclusion of several weeks of negotiations. The guests included members of both House and Senate agriculture subcommittees hearing the bills recently enacted to empower Secretary Anderson to join the Mexican Government in a vigorous eradication program.

The scope of the contemplated campaign was indicated by the Secretary's estimate that 150,000 infected cattle would be killed under the agreement.

The joint agreement calls for the setting up of headquarters in Mexico City, with a director from Mexico and a co-director from the United States. The Bureau of Animal Industry will have charge of this work. It was regarded as a foregone conclusion that S. O. Fladness would be United States head in Mexico.

- - - - -

GRAIN TRADING MARGINS RAISED IN CHICAGO, BUT NOT TO THE LEVELS ASKED BY U.S. AGENCY--Chicago--Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade, at a special meeting today met in part a request by the Commodity Exchange Authority that initial margin requirements on new speculative trades in grain futures be set at 25 percent of the current market price.

Effective tomorrow, margin requirements on March and May wheat will be 60 cents a bushel, or about 22 percent of the closing price today on May wheat, while the margin on the July and September was set at 40 cents, or less than 20 percent of the market price. The old rate on all wheat futures was 30 cents a bushel.

Margins on corn were advanced 6 cents to 24 cents a bushel, and on oats 6 cents to 18 cents. Barley margins, under the new scale will be 40 cents or 10 cents higher than heretofore.

The Minneapolis and Kansas City exchanges have acceded in whole or in part to the Government request for higher margins,

(Other items appearing in today's - - - - -  
New York Times are on page 2 of  
the Digest.)

From New York Times, March 18 -

INCREASED EXPORTS OF WHEAT DOUBTED: FAO WARNS GROWING NATIONS TO ACT NOW, HOWEVER, TO AVOID POST EMERGENCY GLUT-Washington-A review of the world wheat situation issued today by the Food and Agriculture Organization, said that little if any increase in export supply in growing countries could be anticipated in the 1947-48 crop year.

Warning, however, that "burdensome surpluses may accumulate" during the transition period after the present food emergency the FAO urged "positive wheat policies developed by multilateral consultation among governments instead of drastic curtailment."

Representative policies on which governments should cooperate were listed as follows:

Agreement on a range of prices fair to exporting and importing countries, and observation of these prices in international wheat dealings.

Management of export supplies through agreed upon export quotas, "particularly when world supplies threaten to become excessive at the agreed price."

Developing and administering arrangements for sales at special prices was recommended in the Report of the FAO Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals.

- - - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 18 -

FARM CREDIT LOAN PRIORITY UPHELD-Washington-The Supreme Court held today that Farm Credit Administration loans must be repaid before other creditors get anything from a farmer's estate.

Justice Rutledge delivered the court's 8-1 decision, reading it for Justice Murphy, who was the author, but was absent from the bench today. Justice Douglas dissented, holding that lower courts should have been upheld. South Dakota courts had denied the United States priority.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 18 -

GALLOPING GRAIN prices give Government market regulators goose pimples-

First they fear a continued climb, particularly in wheat prices, because it makes more likely a sudden and violent reaction. Commodity Exchange Authority officials see a host of get rich quick "little fellows" romping in the futures markets.

The second worry is that present prices are gouging foreign and domestic flour buyers. Should wheat prices keep mounting, the Agriculture Department might decide to turn loose some of its wheat to help millers out. As of February 1, the Commodity Corp. held about 50 million bushels more than was needed to meet export commitments through April.

Meanwhile Government requested margin hikes in grain futures trading won't in themselves hold prices down, grain experts say. Their contention: Government buying, not speculation, is the real gas in the balloon.

- - - - -



From Washington Daily News, Mar. 17 -

CONGRESS GETS A BREAK - With U. S. buying power and the European food situation as it is, Congress doesn't have to worry for the moment about troublesome farm surpluses.

What surpluses there are, such as in eggs, potatoes and turkeys, are taken care of so far as the farmers are concerned by the farm price support program which runs until Dec. 31, 1948.

The Government so far has lost about \$80,000,000 supporting potato prices. It expects to spend about \$500,000 supporting the price of dried skim milk. It doesn't know how much it will have to spend supporting turkey prices at a national average of 27.9 cents per pound to farmers and egg prices at 33 cents a dozen to farmers in the Mid West.

The Agriculture Department is optimistic about the egg situation because of the high consumption rate and the large purchases of dried eggs for Britain. It has started buying frozen eggs to support the market. It made its first turkey purchase last week of 35,000 pounds.

But storm clouds are on the horizon. So Chairman Clifford Hope of the House Agriculture Committee will hold extensive hearings in April and May on what Congress needs to do in the way of long-range legislation.

Rep. Hope's idea is to hold hearings this year, and then write legislation next year.

- - - - -

From Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, Mar. 11 -

FEEDERS RAP TRADE PACTS - The Corn Belt Livestock Feeders Association wants Congress to have sole authority to make trade agreements with foreign countries.

At its recent meeting in Chicago it passed a resolution asking that the trade agreement authority be removed from the State Department.

Another resolution requests a change in the method of reporting market prices paid for livestock. The feeders groups requests that the Department of Agriculture and the livestock markets report not only the prices paid for various grades of livestock but also the percentage of sales falling into each class.

- - - - -

From Salt Lake City(Utah) Tribune, Mar. 9 -

EXPERT ISSUES WARNING ON CATTLE DISEASE - Warning as to the extreme contagiousness of foot and mouth disease, which can be brought into a clean area by failure of shearers to fumigate clothing and shoes, was issued Saturday by Dr. John I. Curtis, Utah state veterinarian.

Although Utah is not a border state and does not have laws requiring fumigation of shearers' outfits, Mexican shearing outfits sometimes infiltrate into this area, Lavar Taylor, president, International Sheep Shearers' Union of North America, Butte, warned Utah sheep growers.

- - - - -

From El Paso (Tex.) Times, Mar. 7 -

THE BORDER FENCE - Editorial - After going into the subject of whether or not a fence should be built along the U. S. Mexican border, The Times has come to the conclusion that such a fence would be impractical. It would not serve the purpose for which it was intended and it would work a hardship on ranchers whose cattle obtain their water from the Rio Grande.

Talk of building the fence has reached almost a fever pitch since the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Mexico. Main support for the fence has come from those who said they thought it would keep out of this country Mexican cattle and other animals that might bring the disease across the border. Does anyone think the fence would not be cut if cattle were being kept from water?

And how could such a fence possibly prevent buzzards from flying from one side of the border to the other? Persons who are opposed to such a fence should let Washington know their views. A mistaken idea prevails in our capital that residents along the border are strongly in favor of it.

- - - - -

From Canton (Ohio) Repository, Mar. 8 -

HOW TO MOVE THOSE SPUDS - Editorial - Congressmen are worried about the nation's huge surplus of potatoes. Recently the House and Senate dining room menus included potato bread, potato cake and potato chips, the latter furnished by the National Potato Chip Institute, which chipped in to help finance the meal.

Use of potato flour in bread and other bakery products is one of the proposals recommended, but it isn't the cook and the pastry chef who can do the best job of devising ways to move the potato surplus. What's needed are scientists well-grounded in organic chemistry.

Remember what happened when George Washington Carver devoted his attention to the peanut, which, like the potato, is made up mostly of hydrocarbons? He found half a hundred new uses for it.

Turn a good organic chemist loose on the potato and there'd be potato bath mats, potato perfume, potato lubricants and a potato plastic.

- - - - -

From Howard (N.J.) News, Mar. 11 -

PRICE HIKE IN BREAD - Editorial - A rise in the price of bread, ranging from  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to 3 cents a loaf, has suddenly swept across the country. Increased costs of labor and ingredients are given as the reason, but the spontaneity of the increase is strongly suggestive of a close community of interest existing among the commercial bakers, with the smaller fry in the industry tagging along. It is of no small significance that one large chain store, operating in this area, has declared that its bread prices would remain at present levels and that it saw "no immediate prospect" of an increase.

In Newark and vicinity a 1-cent increase in the retail price in many stores was announced as effective yesterday, after wholesalers had given notice of a half-cent increase in the wholesale price. Obviously the 1-cent retail boost means a larger profit for storekeepers who put it into effect.

- - - - -



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 13 -

CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO END OPA-Washington-A bill to close out the office of Price Administration by June 30 cleared Congress today and only the signature of President Truman was necessary to schedule the end of the wartime rationing and price control agency.

Actually, the OPA may cease operations well before June 30, for more than \$14,000,000 finally provided for its liquidation will last at most through April. That sum is all that is available for operation between now and July 1 for paying off OPA's employees and closing its business.

- - - - -

'HYSTERIA' OVER PORK IS HIT AS PRICES FALL-Chicago-The American Meat Institute, trade organization of the meat packing industry, said today that "the myth of skyrocketing pork prices has exploded."

"When live hog prices sharply advanced a couple of weeks ago," the institute's statement said, "there were hysterical predictions, by people outside the meat business, that extremely high pork prices were on the way."

"However, by today, as compared with two weeks ago, pork loins, whence come chops, have dropped 6 to 10 cents per pound, depending on weights, in many parts of the country. And other cuts, such as hams, picnics, shoulders and Boston butts have declined moderately or remained about stationary."

"Consumer demand for the available supply of pork--which supply is limited right now--always determines pork prices."

- - - - -

HOOVER BARS RELIEF POST: REFUSAL IS UNCONDITIONAL--TALKS WITH TRUMAN IN WHITE HOUSE-Washington-Herbert Hoover said today that "under no possible circumstance" would he accept the job of administrator and coordinator of American relief abroad.

"At my time in life I have reached the stage of advice and consultation," he said, after conferring with President Truman. He said his talk with Mr. Truman had been confined to questions of the administration of relief. He said they had not discussed the particular problems of Greece and Turkey.

He said the overall estimate for direct relief amounted to \$1,250,000,000.

- - - - -

OUTLINES PROGRAM TO SPEED FREIGHT: TRUMAN SEES TURN AROUND TIME CUT TO 24 HOURS BY USE OF ELECTRIC TYPE TRUCKS-Immediate relief for the freight car shortage can be provided by reducing turn around time at freight terminals through more systematic use of new automotive type electric trucks to speed up unloading operations, Elmer F. Twyman, general manager of the Automatic Transportation Company, Chicago, suggested here yesterday.

- - - - -

From New York Times, March 13 -

NEW MEXICAN STATUS DUE: U.S. WILL LEGALIZE THE ENTRY OF WORKERS IN SOUTH-WEST-Mexico City-United States Ambassador Walter Thurston and Foreign Secretary Jaime Torres Bodet exchanged notes this evening on a new plan whereby the 119,000 Mexican workers in the Southwest United States will receive a legal status.

Of the total 100,000 are in the United States illegally. The others have overstayed their contracts.

The new plan, which will be effective in thirty days, calls for the return of the entire group to the Mexican border. There they will receive new contract and immigration documents that will enable them to return to the jobs across the border with a legal status.

- - - -

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, March 13 -

SENATE GROUP APPROVES FARM LABOR IMPORTS-Washington-Legislation to extend the farm labor program for six months beyond June 30 was approved today by an 8-3 vote of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The bill already has passed the House.

The Senate committee added a 30 day liquidation period which would wind up the program Jan. 30, 1948 instead of Dec. 31, 1947.

- - - -

JAVANESE SUGAR EXPORTS SEEN DELAYED TILL 1949-Batavia-Sugar exports from Java can not be expected for a long time, according to the current issue of the Economic Review of Indonesia, published by the Netherlands Indies Government Department of Economic Affairs.

The article stated that "The optimistic reports constantly launched abroad about the likelihood of very considerable sugar exports from Java as soon as the political difficulties shall have been overcome have little or no foundation, at any rate, where the visible supplies are concerned."

Existing supplies of sugar, some 1,590,000 tons, must be used entirely for local consumption until 1949, when the next sizeable harvest can be expected, the report added.

- - - -

PRICE AND QUALITY SQUEEZE SEEN ENDING IN LUMBER BY MIDYEAR-Backed by Government and industry forecasts of adequate supplies for 1947, lumber consumers are looking forward to a rapid solution of the quality and price difficulties carried over from last year.

While the lumber market is still marked by large quality and price differentials among sellers, all trade levels expect a decisive turn sometime around the middle of the year. And that anticipated turn in the market envisages lower prices and higher quality standards.

- - - -



From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Mar. 7 -

**LOWER PRICES AHEAD, FARM FORUM WARNS** - Bullish factors that have pushed present farm prices to record high levels were heavily discounted in the long range outlook for agriculture at the first annual Northwest Farm forum Thursday.

In preparation for the day when world food conditions regain some semblance of normalcy, speakers yesterday proposed:

Removing conflicts between foreign policy and domestic agricultural policy.

Correcting maladjustments between farm volume of production, price and cost.

Adjusting the parity price formula on farm products to eliminate present functional barriers.

- - - - -

From Flint (Mich.) Journal, Mar. 3 -

**PINCH FEARED IN FARM LABOR; HIRERS OF MIGRANTS WARNED OF DANGER** - Michigan employers of migrant farm labor have been advised they may have to recruit their own help after June 30 if Congress fails to continue the emergency farm labor program.

A. B. Love, State supervisor of the Program, has advised farmers to strengthen their labor organizations just in case Congress decides to suspend the recruitment program along with other wartime emergency projects.

Love estimates sugar beet growers, pickle and truck crop farmers, fruit producers and canning crop growers normally require the services of 25,000 to 30,000 seasonal workers from outside State.

Mechanization of the sugar beet industry promises to lessen greatly the labor requirements of sugar producers this season, but the worker needs of other farmers are expected to continue as great as in the past.

- - - - -

From Erie (Penn.) Dispatch-Herald, Mar. 4 -

**LET'S FIGHT THIS SCOURGE RIGHT NOW** - Editorial - The most feared of all animals maladies, foot-and-mouth disease, has spread in less than 60 days through 10 states in the Republic of Mexico, infesting an estimated 700,000 head of cattle, with more than 6,000,000 animals exposed.

An infestation in the United States could practically wipe out the cattle, goat, sheep and hog-raising industries in this country and Canada.

Like a forest fire this great health menace is sweeping northward and unless there is quick and drastic action on the part of the United States government the virus will soon be taking its terrible toll and we, a nation of 150,000,000 people, will face a meat famine.

Congress was asked by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson to appropriate sufficient sums with which to combat this dire threat to the health and economy of the people of the United States. In self-defense, it was imperative that our government act quickly and effectively to take the necessary steps in cooperation with the Mexican government.

It is a lot cheaper to do this now than to wait until the malady has crossed the border and started to ravage the great cattle raising areas of Texas and Oklahoma.

- - - - -

From Ogden (Utah) Standard-Examiner, Mar. 2 -

**QUARANTINE OFTEN FAILS** - Editorial - Foes of isolationism probably will draw parallels aplenty from the congressional action authorizing the United States government to move into Mexico to help that country wipe out an epidemic of foot and mouth disease. The action was taken because American livestock men said that even though the malady now is confined to within the borders of another nation the presence of that disease in Mexico is a continuous threat to the herds in this country.

Congressional debate on the hoof and mouth bill emphasized the economic aspects of the situation. It would "pay" the United States to help Mexico wipe out the disease. The suggestion that to do so was a part of the good neighbor policy didn't get much attention. Emphasis was placed on the condition that Mexico lacked the funds and the willingness to take the drastic steps required for disease elimination. Nothing less than destruction of all affiliated or exposed animals seems to wipe out the malady.

- - - - -

From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press, Mar. 8 -

**WHAT IS RECESSION?** - Editorial - The Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicts a business recession in the United States late in 1947 with a general drop in farm prices and purchasing power.

The gloomy forecast is based on the belief that "industrial activity may reach a record level in the first half of the year and then decline from 5 to 10 per cent in the last half."

On this basis, there may be some disagreement as to just what constitutes recession. If the worst we can expect is a not-too-serious leveling off from a record peak, it may only be an adjustment of inflationary tendencies. And instead of recession, that may be a healthy thing for the Nation's economy.

- - - - -

From Grand Junction (Colorado) Sentinel, Mar. 3 -

**REPORTS ARE CHEERING** - Editorial - Reports on the income from FFA farms in the Loma district show commendable efforts on the part of the farmers who purchased the farms on government loans in that district. While the \$5,556 gross income is not exactly in the "higher brackets," it certainly should compare favorably with farm incomes over the nation. The fact that six of the families were able in 1946 to pay off their entire loans (which were contracted to be paid off in 40 years!) more than justifies the government's faith in these farmers, and the fact that most of them have made payments several years ahead not only further justifies that faith but graphically deflates the arguments of the calamity howlers, who were convinced a short time ago that these "receivers of charity" would "live off the government for the rest of their lives." Not only have they paid their way, but they are contributing much to this ever-growing farm area.

From Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune, Mar. 2 -

**HOLDING THE PRICE LINE** - Editorial - Meat prices have been rising recently and there have been predictions of even still higher rises, particularly for pork during the next few months. We are entering the normally slackest season for marketing and it is possible the packers are encouraging the advances, while at the same time, discouraging particularly heavy marketing by predicting still higher prices. We suspect any continuing upward trend will meet extensive consumer resistance.



1.914  
#2D14DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 12, 1947)LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAR 17 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and ~~U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE~~ these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 411A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 12 -

85 TO BE IN U.S. DELEGATION AT GENEVA TRADE CONFERENCE—Washington—William L. Clayton, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, will head a delegation of eighty five officials from nine departments and agencies representing the United States at the dual conference on postwar trade starting at Geneva April 10, the State Department announced today.

The conference, known formally as the second meeting at Geneva of the United Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Trade and Employment, is planned as the major effort in reestablishing postwar commerce between the United Nations.

The American delegation will operate in two fields. It will aim to negotiate reciprocal trade treaties with the other nations expected at the conference. In separate negotiations, the delegates also will attempt to perfect in acceptable form, for submission back to the United Nations governments, a charter for an International Trade Organization to facilitate trade and prevent unfair competition.

-----

U.S. DISCONTINUES COTTON PAYMENTS: LOSS CLAIM FUNDS EXHAUSTED ANDERSON SAYS—ORDERS NATIONAL INVESTIGATION—Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson today announced discontinuance of payments on 1946 cotton crop loss claims and an investigation of these losses. The reason reported was that funds available under this part of the general crop insurance program have been exhausted due to loss claims "far beyond any preliminary estimate."

The Secretary's statement said that "more than half" the 1946 cotton claims have been paid. The word to the unpaid was that even though further payments have been discontinued, field offices of the Crop Insurance Corporation "will continue to adjust, accept and process additional claims."

Premiums earned for 1946 crop cotton insurance covered about 42,000,000 pounds, while total loss claims are estimated at three or four times this amount, the Department of Agriculture said.

-----

AMBASSADOR INSISTS YUGOSLAVS NEED FOOD—Washington—Sava N. Kosanovitch, the Yugoslav Ambassador, declared in a statement today that his country was in need of food and that he had expressed grave concern over the situation in a memorandum to Dean Acheson, Under Secretary of State, on Feb. 13.

The statement was prompted by the disclosure of the State Department yesterday that the American Embassy in Belgrade had reported that "the Yugoslav Government had repeatedly and publicly stated that its supplies of food are adequate to meet essential needs until the next harvest."

-----

From New York Times, March 12 -

SCIENCE O.K.'s HAM'N' EGGS-That pleasing gastronomic combination, ham and eggs, has been examined in the test tubes of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, and has come out with flying colors.

On the basis of its research the agency explains that the particular kind of protein contained in eggs supplements that in ham, and so well that the two foods are more nourishing when eaten together than when consumed separately.

Similarly, previous experiments indicated that a ham sandwich is a natural nutritionally speaking, because here, too, the individual proteins furnished by the two foods, the meat and the bread, efficiently enhance one another.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 12 -

LIVESTOCK-Eastern consumer resistance to high pork prices reduced sales values from 50 cents to \$1 a hundred pounds at Chicago yesterday.

- - - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 12 -

WHEAT PARLEY WILL TEST COMMODITY PACT POLICY-Washington-The willingness of the United States to enter into world commodity pacts will be subjected to its first major test this month.

In the face of the fact that world commodity agreements have failed to find general acceptance--except for indorsement of the principle--American negotiators will meet on March 17 with representatives of other countries in an effort to arrive at an agreement on world trading in wheat.

The fact that wheat prices are now soaring makes the present a particularly good time, from one point of view, to seek an agreement. Importing countries feel that, if they can get some concessions in prices over the next year or so, they may find it worth while to accept minimum prices which they will have to pay later and to agree on quantities of wheat which they will store during times of surplus.

- - - - -

OKLAHOMA ACREAGE SEEN UP 10 PER CENT-Oklahoma City-Prospects for Oklahoma cotton acreage indicated a general increase of about 10 percent over plantings in 1946. The increase, however, was expected to vary in different sections of the State. Some areas were not expected to show any increase while others will bring the general average increase to the estimated 10 percent.

The excessively dry condition of both top and subsoil was reported to have delayed plowing for the 1947 crop. A continuation of unfavorable weather, it was believed, may have an adverse effect on farmers' intentions to increase cotton acreage.

- - - - -



From Spartanburg Herald, March 5 -

**SOUTH CAROLINA SEEN HOLDING TOP PEACH POSITION** - South Carolina can hold her 1946-gained position as the nation's No. 1 fresh peach producing state, provided all growers cooperate.

Meeting in Spartanburg, center of the Palmetto State's peach industry, producers heard several authorities, including Dr. J. C. Dunegan, pathologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture Experiment Station, Beltsville, Md.; Dr. Oliver I. Snapp of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Fort Valley, Ga., and Entomologist W. C. Nettles and Horticulturist Roy J. Ferree of Clemson College.

Yesterday emphasis was upon this "challenging" assertion: "Clean up all the state's orchards, eliminate all its peach-destroying pests and keep the pack standards high -- or the industry will perish.

South Carolina growers "can continue producing the most and the finest fresh peaches grown in the nation if they will keep their orchards free of pests and maintain high quality pack standards," Mr. Nettles said.

- - - -

From Birmingham (Ala) Age-Herald, Mar. 5 -

**\$2.62 WHEAT** - Editorial - Wheat hit \$2.62 a bushel in Chicago Saturday! Washington intimates that speculation in grain futures has shot the price up. Some brokers answer that government buying is responsible for the rise.

The wheat crop last year was well above 1,100 million bushels. Domestic needs are about 650 million. The government is planning to buy somewhere near 400 million bushels for export relief. Besides, moisture conditions for this year's crop, particularly in the Southwest, are excellent. So there should be enough wheat in this country to meet all demands.

The railroads' boxcar shortage is the cause of much of the grain squeeze. Rolling stock is in a more desperate situation than during the war.

But there is a great responsibility upon private business in this price boom. It asked and got freedom from price control. The government does not buy grain to turn a profit. There is no excuse for the pinching of American consumers and the starving abroad by a "shortage" that isn't here.

- - - -

From Minneapolis (Minn) Tribune, Mar. 3 -

**BOXCAR BOONDOGGLE** - Editorial - March wheat hit new 27-year highs twice last week, closing at \$2.60 a bushel, as the scramble was on to get delivery on contracts.

The key to the soaring market was the shortage of boxcars. Cars just are not available in this area to move the grain to market. This situation has been getting worse every day. More elevators were "plugged" with grain in this area last week than in many weeks previous.

The three northern railroads which handle quantities of the grain movement, reported they had less than 60 per cent of the cars they own on their tracks. The railroads are pressed not only by the demand for wheat but also by the urgency of the corn situation. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of corn are in danger of being lost completely because approaching warmer weather is molding the crop in storage. Where are the boxcars? East of Chicago for the most part. Heavy shipments to the east have drained the midwest of its car supply and eastern railroads are holding their cars for their own use.

- - - -

From Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Mar. 1 -

**HELP FOR FARMERS** - Editorial - Congressman Clifford Hope of Kansas, new chairman of the house agriculture committee, long has advocated a narrower spread between what the farmer gets for his products and what the consumer pays.

His activity in his influential post thus will warrant particular attention by California vineyard, orchard and truck crop interests.

Confronted by the cost of the long haul to the major Eastern and Mid-western market centers, the California growers often are blamed for out of line price quotations beyond their control.

And there is little promise, other than through congressional action, that they will not be the target of more undeserved criticism. The removal of ceilings will be a 1947 factor, as will the recently increased railway freight rates.

Current reports, however, say Hope has a stabilization plan based upon his own findings and information supplied by farm organizations.

A legislative program he will propose is undisclosed as yet but will be reviewed by the agriculture committee in April.

It is interesting to note in this connection that Hope lays considerable of the price spread to what he terms waste and inefficiency in transportation.

- - - - -

From Shreveport (La.) Times, Mar. 3 -

**TIMBER WEALTH** - Editorial - Up to recently, East Texans had no exact figures on the value of the annual crop of lumber and other wood products in that region. Estimates ranged as low as \$50,000,000.

But a survey conducted by the East Texas Chamber of Commerce industrial department revealed that in 1946 the value of the crop was \$135,000,000. It disclosed, further, that of 10,090,000 acres of privately owned timber land in the area, 56 per cent is in small ownerships of 3,000 acres or less belonging to 53,618 farmers and other small owners.

The figures point to the greatness of timber as a resource in all this Southwest region. Its value, widely dispersed as to ownership, will increase in coming years as the demand for timber grows.

- - - - -

From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, Mar. 7 -

**HELP FOR FARMERS** - Editorial - A continued shortage of farm labor has led the House of Representatives to continue the program of granting temporary permits for bringing field workers from Mexico and the West Indies. Last summer about 80,000 such laborers came to the United States and were an invaluable help in harvesting and picking. They do not displace American labor, for there are too few native Americans who are looking for that kind of work.

Farm machinery, now in greater supply, is helping to make possible larger crops with fewer hands in the field.

Conditions abroad indicate that again this year the world will need all the American farmers can produce. The potato surplus is an exception which should not mislead Americans to think the world's food crisis is not acute.

- - - - -



1.914  
A2514  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 27, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From Wall Street Journal, March 27 -

PRICE PROBLEM: SURVEY SHOWS LITTLE HOPE FOR WIDE CUTS WASHINGTON WANTS-Washington is primed for immediate price slashing; most of industry is not.

A concerted campaign is on in the Capital to squelch what are deemed renewed threats of an inflationary flare-up. Business leaders have been in to hear the Government's arguments--to see an accusing finger pointed especially at the prices of steel, textiles and paper. Yesterday the keep-prices-down program blossomed at highest levels.

President Truman commended International Harvester and Ford for their recent price cuts. He indicated the wish that other industries and business would follow suit. Secretary of Treasury Snyder, a few moments later, went one step further. He said he has been given indications other price reductions in basic industries are being seriously considered.

A coast-to-coast survey of a wide variety of "basic" and other industries by The Wall Street Journal yesterday failed to give much comfort to hopes of a wave of voluntary price slashing.

-----

CORN REFINERS RAISE PRICES OF PRODUCTS-Leading corn refiners have advanced prices 18 to 30 cents a hundred pounds on several products in line with the higher prices for cash corn.

Corn Products Refining Co., and Fenick & Ford Ltd., have posted the following increases on hundred pound quantities; Corn syrup, unmixed, 25 cents; corn sugar, 25 cents; starches, bagged and barreled, 30 cents; dextrine and gums, 30 cents.

In addition Corn Products has advanced dextrose 18 cents a hundred pounds.

-----

MEN'S SUITS get lighter. The average winter garment was made of wool fabric weighing 18 ounces a yard 10 years ago, says Hart, Schaffner & Marx. Present average weight: 14 ounces a yard. Improved heating of homes, offices and even autos is the reason for the lighter suiting, says the clothing firm.

-----

POTATO EXPORTS-Washington-Exports of surplus 1946 crop potatoes may exceed 17 million bushels, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Through mid March approximately 3 million bushels had been shipped the announcement said. Contracts calling for shipment of 6 million bushels more have been completed and negotiations are in process for the movement of another 2 million bushels. In addition to these quantities, the Agriculture Department is buying 6.5 million bushels of top grade potatoes in Maine and North Central States for sale to the Army.

-----

From New York Herald Tribune, March 27 -

TEAMSTERS BACK MILK STRIKERS IN LOUISIANA; A.F.L. TRUCK BOYCOTT TODAY TO HELP DAIRY FARMERS STOP NEW ORLEANS SUPPLY-Amite, La.- A teamsters' boycott was ordered tonight, backing up a dairy farmers' strike to stop the flow of milk into New Orleans.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, declared the boycott effective tomorrow on all service to stores handling milk from dairies affected by the strike. One official said the boycott would extend to ships in port at New Orleans.

Striking farmers prepared for intensified efforts to halt milk trucks and trains, although state police patrolled highways with orders to keep the roads open.

The principal issue in the two day old strike, in which armed men have dumped thousands of gallons of milk, is a price cut by New Orleans dairies. The dairies, which had been paying farmers \$5.75 for 100 pounds of milk of 4 percent butterfat, reduced the rate to \$5.20.

- - - -

ARGENTINA BARS CEILING WHEAT-London-An informed source said Argentina told the International Wheat Conference today she will not accept a ceiling price on her wheat exports unless countries from which she buys manufactured goods agree to put ceilings on those prices.

- - - -

JAPANESE CLOTH OF U.S. COTTON SOLD TO SWEDEN-Arrangements have been completed for the sale to Sweden of Japanese cotton textiles made from American-loaned cotton and sold through an American government agency acting for the occupation forces, it was learned here yesterday. The initial sale of 10,000,000 meters (approximately 9,150,000 yards) for delivery in May is reported to have been made at prices about 20 to 25 percent under comparable American constructions.

- - - -

WHEELER HEADS U.S. UNIT FOR WORLD WOOL PARLEY-Washington-Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson designated today Leslie A. Wheeler to head the five man United States delegation to a thirteen nation wool conference in London beginning March 31. Mr. Wheeler is director of the Agriculture Department's foreign agricultural relations. The conference will study problems of wool production, consumption and trade.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee approved a resolution continuing the domestic wool price support program until the end of 1948.

In order to get rid of huge stocks it has on hand, the measure will allow the Commodity Credit Corp. to sell its wool at below the parity price which on Feb. 15 was 40.4 cents a pound. The support price will remain between 41.6 and 42.4 cents a pound, where it has been since the buying program began in 1943.

- - - -



From Minneapolis, (Miss) Tribune, March 20 -

DANGER SEEN IN \$3 WHEAT: 'BUST FOLLOWS BOOM' FARMERS ARE WARNED-Farmers are not happy that wheat went to \$3 a bushel in Chicago, National Farmers Union leaders meeting in St. Paul were told Wednesday.

Speakers in close touch with the nation's economy warned of the "inflationary signs which include high wheat prices," and expressed fear that it might presage the "bust following the boom."

"The time is rapidly approaching when the farmer will have to think again about measures to improve marketing and maintain food and fiber consumption in this country and abroad," Frederick W. Vaughn, agricultural economist for the National Council of Economic Advisors, declared.

"Already in these prosperous United States there are growing signs of deficiencies of purchasing power in the hands of consumers," he said.

- - - -

From Des Moines (Iowa) Register, March 20 -

GROWING RISK IN GRAIN SPECULATION-Editorial-The Commodity Exchange Administration thinks that the grain exchanges should require at least 25 percent margins in order to curtail speculation in grain. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, meanwhile, has warned that "speculation is talking loud in the wheat market," and has cautioned people against dabbling in grain futures.

The grain exchanges complied with the government request early this week, but the action didn't mean much because brokers already were requiring margins about that high.

When grain prices move up sharply over a period of a few months, many non-professional speculators are attracted into the market. Frequently these "lambs" are quite cleanly "shorn" before they get out.

- - - -

From Boston (Mass.) Globe, March 18 -

UNSETTLED MARKET-Editorial-The exchange in which future yields of grain are bought and sold have often been regarded as the cause of fluctuating prices of important foods. Now comes Walter Scott, president of the National Association of Commodity Exchanges and Allied Trades, Inc., to present another view.

He declares that the situation is of the government's own making, instead of being "speculation talking loud in the wheat market," as recently charged by the Secretary of Agriculture.

It used to be that supply and demand and the weather were the factors to watch. Now there has come government price support and also government purchase for export. Both look uncertain to those who grow wheat and also to those who deal in it. Mr. Scott points out how the government announced last November that its purchase for relief had been complete. Then the Commodity Credit Corporation announced that it would support wheat on the basis of \$1.88 a bushel for shipment in May. Now there is a new decision, no more wheat is to be shipped in May and June, but flour is to be purchased. Guessing when dollars are involved tries the nerves. A settled policy would relieve the strain.

- - - -

Farm Digest 615-47-3

From the Oklahoma City, (Okla.) Oklahoman, March 18 -

THEY DON'T FACE THE FACTS--The U.S. Department of Agriculture a few days ago announced "plans for supporting prices of the 1947 potato crop as required by the Steagall amendment," under PMA.

It will be painfully recalled that under a similarly elaborate system in 1946 there was a surplus of 100,000,000 bushels of potatoes, costing the taxpayers \$80 millions in price supports, and the potatoes rotted because they couldn't be moved to where they were needed.

Anyone who cares to look up the statistics of the AAA "crop control and benefit" plan of the late 1930's knows that all farms were photographed from the air and maps made, at a huge cost, and penalties were imposed to "control" crops, and yet the yields were larger under "crop control" than under the former free system--also the prices were lower to the farmer.

Despite the perfectly obvious failure of AAA or PMA actually to control crops, the vast USDA bureaucracy plunges blindly ahead as if it were working.

So now, again, comes along list of rules and regulations on "potato crop control," so it may be confidently expected that there will be another huge surplus, or possibly a short crop due to the weather, coupled with a newly announced policy of forcing potatoes into states of low yield--an example of the "ever-abnormal granary" which has afflicted American agriculture ever since Washington has been trying to run it. --Editorial--

- - - - -

From Peoria, (Ill.) Journal-Transcript, March 19 -

CORN URGED AS SOURCE OF MOTOR FUEL--Use of corn in the manufacture of alcohol for motor fuel could reduce the largest surplus of that grain the country has ever known, according to Dr. G. E. Hilbert, director of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory.

Speaking before the agricultural committee of Peoria Association of Commerce Tuesday night, Dr. Hilbert said alcohol is the best fuel for motor-driven equipment and can be used in the pure state or as a mixture with gasoline.

Elaborating on the subject, "New Uses of Farm Products and Farm Wastes," the laboratory head said 30-cent-a-bushel corn could be used for manufacture of pure alcohol for motor fuel at a price motorists could afford to pay, and that dollar corn could be used for a 5 percent blend with alcohol and not increase price of gasoline more than two cents a gallon.

Dr. Hilbert suggested four ways in which farm surpluses may be reduced, probably by a combination of all four. These were restricted production, conversion of the surpluses to feeding animal stocks, exportation and conversion to industrial uses.

- - - - -

From Denver, (Colo.) Post, March 19 -

SHOOTING THE MOON--Three-dollar wheat and \$2 corn--not the moon--are targets at which American farmers have been shooting this year. Tuesday they hit the \$3 wheat mark. And who knows but that they will be as successful on corn?

The \$3.05 wheat price reached on the Chicago market Tuesday was the highest in 30 years and marked the second time in the ninety-nine years' history of the Chicago exchange that wheat had passed the \$3 mark. March corn reached \$1.78 3/4 on Monday. That was the highest since the \$1.97 1/4 peak in May, 1920.

Increased foreign demand is the Department of Agriculture explanation for skyrocketing grain prices. Last August, American wheat exports for the fiscal year of '47 were estimated at 267 million bushels. Now this figure has been raised to 350 millions. What concerns the most people in rising wheat prices is the effect upon price of bread. (Editorial)

USDA 615-47-4



1.914

A2D14 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 26, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 26 -

CITY COUNCIL ASKS FOOD PRICE INQUIRY: RESOLUTION CALLS ON CONGRESS TO DETERMINE IF HIGH COSTS ARE RESULT OF CONSPIRACY-A resolution calling upon Congress to investigate the "all-time high" level of food prices was adopted unanimously yesterday by the City Council.

Joseph T. Sharkey, Vice Chairman of the Council, who was sponsor for the resolution, said he hoped the Council's action would "bring a general outcry" from other parts of the <sup>country</sup> that would "get something done." Because of the "outrageous prices being charged for common foodstuffs," many children are being deprived of the necessities of life, he asserted.

The average American wants to know, the resolution said, why the excessive prices are allowed to continue and "whether it is the result of a conspiracy on the part of selfish groups in the food industry or the result of numerous food shipments abroad."

- - - - -

DAIRY FARM STRIKE ENFORCED BY RIFLES-Amite, La.-Dairy farmers of Louisiana's "Florida parishes," an area which once fought a successful rebellion against Spain, went out with rifles and shotguns today to enforce a strike against a decline in the price of milk.

Bands of farmers, many of them armed, seized at least eight tank trucks and emptied about 50,000 gallons of milk into ditches. There were no reports of personal violence.

Distributors in New Orleans, principal outlet for the milk produced in the area, estimated the city's supply would be cut in half if the strike continued. The State capital of Baton Rouge and several other cities are expected to be similarly affected.

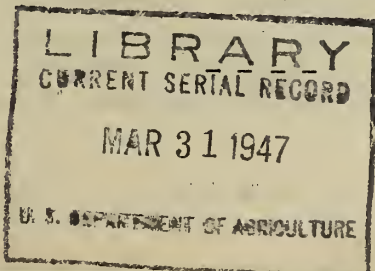
Spokesmen for the farmers said that arrangements were being made to assure adequate milk supplies for hospitals and other public institutions.

- - - - -

RISE IN MILK PRICE SOUGHT FOR FARMERS-Revision of the formula by which the farm price of milk for this area is computed was advocated yesterday.

Spokesmen for dairymen who produce most of the city's milk supply also requested increases to farmers for their milk next summer and fall. The suggested advances would amount to a rise of 2 cents a quart in the retail price.

A hearing was under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture.



Farm Digest 595-47

From New York Times, March 26 -

STUDIES UNDER WAY FOR CROP INSURANCE-Washington-An intensive review of the Federal crop insurance program is under way in preparation for a showdown whether or not it will have any future under the Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Involved in the hearings before the Appropriations Committee will be a \$25,000,000 grant to cover the rest of the 1946 crop obligations, due to cotton losses, as well as the 1947-48 appropriations for next year's wheat, flax and cotton crops, and some corn and tobacco coverage.

Gus Geissler, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation said today that his recommendation as to the future program varied by crops. For wheat and flax, he held, it would be necessary to discontinue insurance only in the areas where the farm income came chiefly from some other crop. He advocated confining cotton insurance in general "to those areas in which it is indicated we can operate a successful program."

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 26 -

TURPENTINE PRICE GOES BELOW PARITY: 97C QUOTED IN SAVANNAH MARKET--SUPPORT PLAN IS DELAYED-Washington-The Government will not begin formulating a 1947 price support program for turpentine at least until April, despite a drop in the Savannah market to more than 5c below the March parity.

Turpentine dropped to 97c at Savannah today after varying around \$1 during the past week. The March parity, set the Department of Agriculture on the basis of farmers' costs during February, is \$1.021 a gallon at Savannah.

- - - -

SUGAR DEMAND -Refined sugar demand is improving and is expected to broaden further as the new stamp No. 11 becomes valid on April 1. Only five days remain for Congress to act on sugar legislation. Rationing, otherwise, expires automatically on March 31.

- - - -

CCC BACK IN MARKET-Chicago grain futures finish with a display of strength following reports that CCC has reentered the market, purchasing new crop wheat in the Southwest. Earlier trading had been nervous, with some declines noted.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 26 -

BOARD OF TRADE VOTES TO REMAIN OPEN SATURDAYS THIS SUMMER-Chicago-A negative decision was reached yesterday by directors of the Chicago Board of Trade on the question of closing the grain department on Saturdays during the summer months.

The fact that grain growers and country shippers work on Saturdays, the shortage of box cars, possible demurrage charges, and the chance of grain deteriorating, especially during the hot weather, furnished the background for the decision.

- - - -



From Rockford, (Ill.) Star, March 19 -

FARMERS RAP PRICE HIKES, \$3 WHEAT: FEAR RECESSION-Although little wheat is grown in the Rockford area, Winnebago county farmers yesterday watched prices for grain soar to \$3 a bushel and many shook their heads in opposition to price increases they fear will cause another postwar economic crisis.

Farm Adviser Henry R. Brunnemeyer said a majority of farmers don't want prices to get out of line.

"Farmers shake their heads when they hear and read about price increases because they realize that eventually consumers are going to stop buying and that resistance will be reflected in an unstable economy and lower market rates," Brunnemeyer declared.

"Hopes for a level economy are expressed by farmers because they know that sooner or later the price pendulum is going to swing the other way. Most of them just hope it doesn't go too far."

- - - -

From Indianapolis, (Ind.) Star, March 19 -

OLD RELIABLE SUPPLY AND DEMAND-Editorial-Wheat went to \$3.05 on the Chicago futures market yesterday. If any Hoosier farmer had had wheat on hand to bring to the Indianapolis market he would have received \$2.75 a bushel. No telling what he might get today or tomorrow.

But whatever the price may be, the grower knows he is not indebted to AAA, OPA or any other relic of the New Deal days. He is not being paid for plowing under a third of his crop. Nor is he getting a subsidy for wheat he did not raise.

There may be some juggling on the market, but the fact remains that wheat is worth \$2.75 to the Indiana farmer because of demand and shortage of available supply. That price is what it is worth to buyers. It is the old reliable law of supply and demand in operation.

- - - -

From Lewiston, (Me.) Sun, March 18 -

BONUS FOR FARMERS-Editorial-The Republican party can hardly expect to escape the charge of double talk on the matter of government economy when one group vows economies running up to five or six billion dollars while another acts in the opposition direction.

One of the most glaring recent examples of government extravagance and subservience to political pressure was the spectacle furnished by the Senate Agriculture committee, controlled of course by the Republicans, in voting Saturday to give corn and wheat farmers a bonus that may cost the Treasury up to a billion dollars.

If this bill passes, which we fervently hope is not the case, a big proportion of the savings the GOP hopes to make in President Truman's 1948 budget will go by the board.

- - - -

From San Antonio (Tex) Express, March 17-

SOUND COUNSEL FROM COTTON PRODUCTION COMMITTEE-Editorial-To put this State's cotton industry on its feet again, Texas farmers should increase their plantings from last year's 5 million to at least 7 million acres.

It is even more important that farmers strive to increase the yield per acre. Last year, on the average, it took three acres to produce one bale. As a result, Texas harvested its shortest crop since 1889--only about 1,700,000 bales. For 1947, let the growers set their mark at a half bale to the acre. Even that yield would fall considerably below the South wide average.

Certain older cotton States--Mississippi and Georgia, for examples--have made land which has been in cultivation far longer than the Texas Blacklands yield almost a bale to the acre. Systematic soil building obtained that result. Farmers sowed legumes for winter cover and plowed under the crop for green manure. Texans profitably might adopt that course.

- - - -

From Grand Rapids, (Mich.) Herald, March 18 -

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN-Editorial-Twenty two farmers in the Sparta area, finishing "school" this week, are estimated to have saved \$2,500 by making or repairing farm tools in the Sparta Adult Farm Shop during their 10 week course, but that is only the first dividend.

Like others in previous classes and still more in future classes, they will take with them the "know how" of shop work that will save them more dollars and, more important, prevent farm losses by keeping their machinery in tip top shape.

But even more than the financial saving and monetary gain will be the satisfaction of having new skills and the fun they seem to have had in working and learning together.

- - - -

From Wichita, (Kan.) Beacon, March 18 -

EROSION IS THE GREATEST ROBBER OF KANSAS SOIL-Editorial-Kansas soil is losing ten times as much of its fertility to erosion as is being required for the production of crops. This warning was voiced by the State's conservation leaders at the outset of their meeting which opened in Wichita Monday.

Appropriations for the expansion of conservation work in Kansas is placed at the head of the list of Kansas' present urgent needs. The most serious Kansas problem, conservation experts say, is agriculture. If more money is not provided for conservation work, it is predicted, from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres of land, now producing grain crops, must be turned back to grass land to allow it to recover its fertility.

Erosion of Kansas soil is proceeding at a rate that if combatted as at present will require 65 years to overtake. In the last year it was possible to treat only 1.5 percent of the total state acreage that is in need of treatment for erosion.

- - - -



1.914 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
A2D14  
(For March 20, 1947)

LIBRARY

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAR 25 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 20 -

TRUMAN PROPOSES EXPORT RULE STAND: MESSAGE SAYS IT IS VITAL TO BALK HIGH PRICES AND AID COUNTRIES WE MUST SAVE-Washington-President Truman, in a message to Congress today, requested extension of Government controls over exports for a year beyond the present expiration date of June 30.

Mr. Truman declared that the controls should be continued over the export of products in critically short supply here and abroad. This, he said, was in order to "protect the economy of the United States as well as to discharge our international responsibilities."

Specifically, the President recommended that the authority derived from the Export Control Act be extended for the one year period. He urged Congress to act promptly in order to assure continuity of control operations and because "delay would prove unsettling to business and would handicap the planning and execution of our food and other export programs."

U.S. RELIEF ABROAD FACES TIGHT CURBS-Washington-The Administration's \$350,000,000 program for American relief in liberated countries was released in modified form today to the House for its action after three weeks of deadlock in the Foreign Affairs Committee.

It emerged with its proposed benefits so restricted and conditioned as to indicate to many that the committee had set out to write a new, tough foreign policy of its own.

Going far beyond the Administration's draft of curbs and safeguards against misuse of American beneficence, the completed measure would limit relief to food, medical supplies, material for clothing, fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and seed. It would provide \$350,000,000 of credits, but no cash.

To receive the relief aid, a liberated country would be required to sign in advance an agreement to live up to rigid stipulations. Violation of any phase of such an agreement would leave a country subject to immediate cancellation of further help. The President could stop a program in its tracks, so could Congress.

WHEAT PRICE OFF ON NOTICE BY US: REACHES 10 CENT A BUSHEL LIMIT FOR 2D DAY-Chicago-Wheat prices plunged downward again on the Board of Trade today, reaching the 10 cents a bushel permissible daily limit for the second straight day as a result of an announcement that the Government would permit cash wheat in the Northwest for unobtainable hard winter in the Southwest in an effort to ease the market situation.

Closing trades on wheat futures were at losses of 9 to 10 cents, March rallying 1 cent from the low, and finished at \$2.77 $\frac{1}{2}$ , or 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents under the high of yesterday.

From New York Times, March 20 -

URGES DUMPING OF FROZEN FOODS-San Francisco-Dumping of quantities of frozen foods on the market was urged before 4,000 members of the frozen food food industry here today as the Association of Frozen Food Packers opened its first national convention.

Frank E. Jercma, vice president of the First National Bank of Seattle told the industry to curtail production, concentrate on fancy merchandise and to educate the public to the use of frozen foods.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 20 -

BIG THREE NATIONS SET WORLD WHEAT PRICES, BUT ARGENTINA BALKS; U.S. CANADA, AUSTRIAL AGREE ON \$1.80 TOP, \$1.25 FLOOR: REFUSAL THREATENS PACT-London-Three of the world's four great wheat exporting nations agreed yesterday on a maximum price of \$1.80 a bushel for exported bread grain.

Argentina declined to go along with the United States, Canada and Australia. An informed source at the International Wheat Conference said "Argentine reluctance" to accept an international agreed price for her wheat exports "may torpedo the proposed world wheat agreement."

The United States, Canada and Australia also accepted a minimum of \$1.25 for exported wheat. The \$1.25 floor and the \$1.80 ceiling on international wheat prices were proposed by the International Wheat Council in Washington.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 20 -

TRADERS HIT CEA IN COUNTER ATTACK-Opposition to proposed legislation granting the Commodity Exchange Authority control over margin requirements in futures markets developed among commodity traders yesterday.

Frank J. Knell, president of the New York Cotton Exchange, said: "I have always felt it best for the Exchanges to wisely regulate themselves if possible rather than to have inflexible regulations imposed by Government."

Representatives of both commission houses and spot firms in the cotton market expressed distaste for the attempt of Government bureaucracies to extend their powers by restricting the freedom of private enterprise.

The CEA itself should be terminated by legislation," a leading cotton trader said, "Its activities now are simply a waste of public money. The few reports turned out by costly Government organizations could be issued by private clerical personnel at less than one percent of the present costs."

An official of the New York Cotton Exchange declared that, while the CEA could not be abolished at present, Congress should avoid increasing its powers. Commercial grain interest were mostly disturbed over the fact that, although CEA margin rules would not be aimed at them, they would nevertheless lead to a corresponding increase for margin rules on trade accounts as well as on speculative accounts.

- - - -



From the Boston (Mass.) Globe, March 14 -

FOOD ABROAD AND HOME - Editorial - With announcement from the Department of Agriculture that this country's grain exports will hit a total of 400,000,000 bu. during April, the inference is plain that government buying for foreign relief has been inaugurated again on a large scale. How long this will continue depends upon what Congress does about President Truman's latest proposals.

Will this mean retraction of the department's recent warnings to farmers that a recession of prices is in prospect later this year? With wheat soaring toward an all-time high of \$3 a bushel, it would seem reasonably certain that a large question mark should be written over the future for agriculture, at least for a month or two. Food prices here at home respond to the boost in volume demands for export.

- - -

From the Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 14 -

DAIRY LEADER SCORES PRICE PROP LAXITY - The department of agriculture's lack of a definite price stabilization announcement was scored Thursday as "an injustice to dairy farmers" by Charles W. Holman, Washington, secretary of the National Co-operative Milk Producers federation.

Speaking at the annual meeting of Land O' Lakes Creameries, Inc., Holman said the announcement of a support program is needed "to set at rest the widespread fear of a drastic price collapse and to permit farmers to plan their year's operations."

To the milk producer, the assurance that a support program for manufactured dairy products at adequate levels will be effective is more important than the price itself, he said.

"Such action by the department of agriculture also is needed to balk the apparent program of some individuals to buy butter cheaply during the spring, create an artificial shortage and then sell at high prices next fall," the co-operative leader declared.

- - -

From the Chicago Journal of Commerce, March 12 -

PREDICT RELIEF TO RULE GRAIN THROUGH 1948 - Washington - Foreign demand will remain the ruling factor in wheat and other grain prices at least through 1948, government officials and private grain representatives believe.

Boiled down, this means the United States can produce record wheat crops for at least another year without running into surpluses, if the government follows the relief recommendations of former President Herbert Hoover and President Truman's forthcoming assistance program for Greece and Turkey.

Commodity Credit Corp. purchases in the current crop year have ruled the wheat market, and despite official protests that the agency has done nothing to run up prices, private grain experts believe CCC draining of southwestern wheat supplies in January is directly responsible for present runaway prices.

- - -

From the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune, March 10 -

OUR WOOL PROSPECTS - Editorial - There are smiles in those areas, foothill and lowland, where sheep graze in California, for the prospects are that post-war demands for wool will be 40 percent greater than in prewar years. Wool growing and manufacturing constitutes one of the nation's four greatest industries, production last year amounting to \$1,425,000,000 and in the picture California has definite place.

- - -

From the Shreveport (La.) Times, March 8 -

THE ECONOMICS REPORT - Editorial - The official announcement of the bureau of agricultural economics in Washington, published in The Times yesterday, that a business recession can be expected late this year is one of those things that should be viewed with considerable suspicion.

The bureau says that a decline of 15 or 20 or maybe 25 percent may be expected in food prices and that there will be industrial recession because of "the declining purchasing power in the hands of wage earners."

Both statements probably are true literally but as presented, and coupled together, they fail to even dent the surface of the full facts in the economics involved.

The Times has stated repeatedly that there must be a drop in food prices as a whole. Just how soon it will come is impossible to state but it is plain/common sense that the food inflation of the present cannot continue into the future for any great length of time. But that does not mean recession. It means, or should mean, a general levelling off that will bring more purchasing power for the consumer and generally steadier conditions for everyone.

- - -

From the Chicago Sun, March 14 -

THE FREE MARKET AT WORK - Editorial - Congress has now sent to President Truman the bill to kill off what remains of OPA by June 30. It is an appropriate time to reflect on who was right and who was wrong in the great debate which ended in the virtual abandonment of price control last year. The typical family struggling to make ends meet can take little satisfaction in knowing that had the people had their way a strong OPA would still be on the job. But the national experience with postwar inflation should be understood and remembered as a guide to the future. Next time Congress may know better whose advice can be trusted.

- - -

From the Des Moines (Iowa) Register, March 13 -

COMMODITY CREDIT STILL NEEDED - Editorial - The department of agriculture wants the Commodity Credit Corporation made a permanent institution under a federal charter. The CCC is charged with supporting farm prices under the Steagall amendment through 1947 and 1948, but it is also the agency that carried out the commodity loan programs before the war.

Since the Steagall act was a temporary measure to ease the transition from wartime to peacetime conditions, critics of the department of agriculture believe that CCC should be allowed to die after Dec. 31, 1948. But this overlooks the permanent nature of the ever-normal granary program of crop loans.

Crop loans have been a permanent and important feature of farm programs since the fall of 1933. Government buying of farm products for relief distribution has been carried on since 1935.

Regardless of the kind of farm programs developed, they almost certainly will involve commodity loans, buying and selling. Thus it would seem wise to establish the Commodity Credit Corp. as a permanent agency.

- - -



1.914  
A2D14  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 25, 1947)

LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD  
MAR 28 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 25 -

TRUMAN AND AIDES SPEED FOOD RELIEF: PRESIDENT SEES CABINET BOARD--SENATE GROUP REPORTS BILL TO EXTEND EXPORT POWERS--Washington--President Truman spent forty minutes today with his Cabinet Food Committee reviewing the world food crisis.

Attending were Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture; W. Averell Harriman, Secretary of Commerce; Willard Thorpe, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, and Tracy Voorhees, who is in charge of the Army's food program in occupied areas.

With all foreign relief appropriations nearly expended and the Second War Powers Act due to expire March 31, the administration is approaching the status of "no funds, no authority," unless Congress acts.

A major problem is the continuing of priorities on box cars to complete the great grain export program to needy nations. This would need extensions at once of rail transportation controls under Title III of the Second War Powers Act.

That Congressional leaders were thinking along the same lines became evident later in the day, when the Senate Judiciary Committee reported a bill to extend all controls under Title III for ninety days. This would also include continued allocation of foods in world short supply through the International Emergency Food Council.

---

FOOD INDEX DROPS AGAIN: BUT PRICE DECLINE IS SLIGHT--STILL 95% ABOVE 1939--Washington--Retail food prices were 0.8 percent lower in the middle of February than in the middle of January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

This was the third consecutive month of slight decline, bringing the retail food price index 3 percent below the record high of mid-November.

Leading price decreases were 6 percent for eggs, 4 percent for dairy products and 1 percent for meats. However, the index still stood 31 percent higher than a year ago, and 95 percent higher than in August, 1939.

---

CHARGES MILK IS TOO HIGH: LA GUARDIA TELLS HEARING PRICE SHOULD BE LESS HERE--Former Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia said yesterday that city consumers should be paying one cent a quart less for milk. He also maintained that dairy farmers should be receiving two cents a quart more than they are getting.

Mr. La Guardia was the only speaker at a hearing to touch upon the general issue of prices at the session called by the production and marketing administration of the United States Department of Agriculture. Appearing as "the unauthorized spokesman for unorganized consumers," Mr. La Guardia contended that the consumer "got no benefit" from the decline in the farm price of milk Feb. 1 and again March 1. He charged that the reduction "went into the pocket of the middleman." This contention was denied by Edward O. Mather, executive director of the Milk Dealers Association of Metropolitan New York. Farm Digest 5857

From Wall Street Journal, March 25 -

CORN SPOILS ON ILLINOIS FARMS FOR WANT OF BOX CARS TO MOVE IT.-The deteriorating grain contains a lot of water. If it is not hustled toward market before warm weather sets in, heavy losses will result. Germination will begin. And it will be of no use to corn refiners and other processors now begging for grain.

A lot of this train-deserted corn is being moved by truck. But the trucks aren't equal to the job. Available trucks can't begin to replace lacking railroad facilities.

Another corn headache: To be shipped overseas, this grain has to be specially dried out to prevent spoilage; and there aren't enough drying facilities.

- - - -

WHEAT BUYING BY THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE RESUMED SOON-Despite earlier promises that no more wheat would be bought until the new crop comes in, the Agriculture Department may be bidding for the grain again in the near future. On the prospect of a super bumper U.S. harvest of 1.2 billion bushels, some top Government officials urge more buying. The object: To maintain heavy exports during May and June.

Agriculture Secretary Anderson is hesitant. But pressure from above may force him to give in. If so, his agents will be buying spring wheat in Northwestern states for shipment through the Great Lakes as soon as the ice is out.

Meanwhile Government wheat buying has already so "cleaned out" the Southwest that Texas-Oklahoma flour millers are trying to buy wheat in Dakotas.

- - - -

INDIAN SUMMER OF INFLATION IS PROBABLY CHARTED IN TODAY'S COMMODITY PRICES-Don't expect the spurt since the year end to continue much longer. The odds are against such a course. The "Truman Doctrine" doesn't alter this prospect--unless it involves far greater foreign expenditure than anything yet indicated.

In keenest demand for foreign aid is wheat. Yet when the king cereal recently peeped above the \$3 a bushel level, it was slapped down nearly 30 cents in two days. That was the worst two day wheat break in seven years. (Erratic grains popped up again yesterday.) Hogs have had some \$2.50 clipped from their recent high of \$30 a hundred pounds.

With wholesale stocks of canned food well above a year ago, food prices face the impact of another big pack this spring and summer--though it may be smaller than last year's pack. And food prices also face the ever swelling flood of consumer goods snatching at the public dollar.

- - - -



From St. Paul, (Minn.) Pioneer Press, March 17 -

SOLONS SECRETLY SIFT GRAIN MART-Washington-Market speculations, particularly in grains, have raised congressional eyebrows to the point where one committee has quietly been investigating the matter for several weeks it was learned here exclusively Sunday.

The House food investigation committee, headed by Rep. Andresen R.Minn., has been conducting the probe, but refuses to acknowledge this fact.

Apparently the committee is hoping to pin down certain information already made available to members of the committee and then will order an open investigation to bust speculative practices wide open.

Apart from actions federal agencies have taken to curb trading fever in commodity futures, the subcommittee of the House agriculture committee has carried on its work on its own initiative. Involved are recent speculations in both grains and cotton.

- - - -

From Hartford, (Conn.) Times, March 17 -

EXPERTS TONING DOWN PREDICTIONS OF CRASH: THINGS MAY BE WORSE FOR FARMERS BUT BIG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY ANTICIPATED-Washington-Government experts, who have emphasized since last September the probability of a sharp drop off in business this fall, now are beginning to walk more softly.

Things will be worse for the farmer, they have predicted, with big volume production in industry affording more outlets for the consumer dollar.

The Agriculture Department has been among those government bureaus which were flying economic storm signals.

Now its Bureau of Agricultural Economics has changed its tune--or at least--softened the emphasis.

- - - -

From Wichita (Kan.) Beacon, March 16 -

WICHITA FARMING AREA PROSPERITY REVEALED-The American farmer today is in the strongest financial position in 30 years and farm prosperity is especially noticeable in the Wichita trade region, Dr. P. H. Stephens, director of research for the Farm Credit Administration at Wichita, reported to the chamber of commerce Saturday.

Dr. Stephens, who is a member of the chamber's agricultural committee said that farm mortgages and short term loans by farmers are only about one half the volume following the first World War. He said the whole agricultural situation "is unusually sound."

- - - -

From Louisville (Ky) Times-March 17 -

NOT BAD FARMING-As reported by the LaGrange Times, twenty nine families who purchased their Oldham County farms through the Farmers Home Administration averaged in 1946 \$4,556 gross. Of this' thirty two percent was used to pay on their farm purchase loans. The rest was used to pay off other debts, to operate the farm and the home.

The average family in this group had, therefore, about \$3,000 a year on which to live.

The Oldham figures suggest that most of the purchasers of farms through FHA knew how to farm, or quickly learned how. The report here referred to does not show how many of them began as experienced farmers.

- - - -

From Sacramento, (Calif.) Bee, March 14 -

BUYER RESISTANCE FORCES DOWN CANNED, PACKAGED FOOD PRICES-Buyer resistance has caused general reductions in the wholesale prices of canned goods and packaged foods which are expected to be passed on to the consumer through retail stores. This was the announcement today of wholesale grocers of the price cuts range from 1 to 5 cents or more per can or package, and from 10 cents to \$1.50 per case.

"The buyer resistance is quite prevalent," one wholesale grocer said, "and I personally do not blame the housewives. They have been getting along with lower priced goods and this automatically will bring down the price of items they now feel are too high."

He revealed his wholesale house has submitted a list of new prices to retailers containing 283 items. Of these 264 are listed at reduced figures whereas only 19 are priced higher than last month. The latter are mostly wheat items, such as white flour and some corn meal and wheat cereals.

- - - -

From Buffalo, (NY) Courier-Express, March 19 -

HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE-Editorial-Cattle growers, especially in the Southwest, are alarmed at the spread of the hoof and mouth disease in Mexico. They are afraid that it will spread across the Rio Grande, even though importation of cattle from Mexico has been banned. Congress has authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to spend funds to help Mexico eradicate or minimize the disease within its own borders.

All consumers in the United States should be alarmed too. If large numbers of cattle in the United States have to be slaughtered to prevent the spread of hoof and mouth disease, meat will become scarcer and meat prices ever higher.

The disease is highly contagious and difficult to suppress. It is hard to detect in its early stages, and infected animals may spread it before they show symptoms.

Most forms do not cause heavy mortality, but infected animals lose weight and have to be refattened.

- - - -



1.914  
A2D14  
Cap 2  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 17, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 17 -

25-YEAR PLAN ASKED FOR GREECE BY FAO-WASHINGTON-A pertinent report on the economic crisis in Greece, setting forth a twenty five year plan for her recovery was made public today by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The report calls for: An initial loan of \$100,000,000 by the World Bank for the present fiscal year. A special United Nations Advisory Council for internal assistance. Vast reconstruction and industrial development projects. A stern domestic policy toward economy, inflation, taxes and other problems of ailing nations. Vigorous efforts by the Greeks themselves to regain a favorable position in world trade.

- - - -

COSTS FOR FARMERS EXPECTED TO RISE-WASHINGTON-Farmers can expect costs to take a larger share of their income this year, the Department of Agriculture said tonight:

"Long-term debts incurred when costs and incomes are high will become burdensome as prices and gross income fall off," the agency said.

Farm wage rates will continue at 1946 record levels for some time, the department forecast, but probably will taper off later this year. The supply of farm workers increased in 1946 over 1945 and a further increase is expected this year.

- - - -

VAST INCREASE DUE IN LEATHER SUPPLY: RECORD OUTPUT OF HIDES AND CALF SKINS ON WAY TO TRADE SINCE MEAT DECONTROL-CHICAGO-A big increase in production of shoes and other leather goods in the next few months were predicted by stockyard sources today because of the large number of cattle and calves slaughtered since the meat industry was decontrolled last October.

Production of hides and calf skins has set new records and output is expected to continue high throughout the year. The biggest portion of the hides has not yet reached the shoe manufacturers, it was said.

- - - -

SAYS HIGH TARIFFS PERIL OUR SYSTEM: FOREIGN POLICY GROUP URGES FREER TRADE-WASHINGTON-The Foreign Policy Association said tonight, in support of the State Department's world trade proposals, that the United States would lose its free enterprise system if it followed an "economic nationalism" policy of high tariffs.

A report prepared by Harold H. Hutcheson of the association's research staff said tariffs must be scaled down with capital, labor and management shifted to production which did not need the protection of high tariffs. It suggested that subsidies be paid persons adversely affected by the change.

- - - -

From New York Times, March 17 -

(The New York Times of today carries a three column cut on Page 11 showing a mountain of potatoes dumped at Fort Fairfield, Maine. The caption reads: A Potato Mountain Rises in Maine. The Cutlines read: At Fort Fairfield, in the heart of the potato farming region, workers are dwarfed as they add to the thousands of bushels of the surplus vegetable dumped in a huge mound.)

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 17 -

U.S. MUST DECIDE ON SIGNING WORLD GRAIN PACT--OR BUCKING IT--Washington--The United States is faced this week with a choice between joining a vigorous world wheat cartel or bucking it.

If it chooses opposition, it must recognize the possibility of losing export markets for American grain.

The setting for this momentous decision will be a conference room in London. Delegates from the United States and more than a dozen other nations will file in tomorrow. The precise issue: Whether America shall join in an international agreement giving the International Wheat Council continuing power to fix the prices and quantities of wheat moving in world commerce.

- - - -

From The Journal of Commerce, N.Y., March 17 -

THOMAS PROTESTS MOVE TO RAISE GRAIN MARGINS--Washington--Senator Elmer Thomas (Dem. Okla) over the weekend protested that the Agriculture Department "was trying to beat down farm prices" by recommending an increase in margin requirement for speculative trading in grains.

The department's Commodity Exchange Administration Friday asked grain exchanges in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Kansas City to require margins of at least 24 percent of market value on speculative grain transactions.

- - - -

PRICE PACE SETTERS DUE TO SLIP IN FALL, US SAYS--Washington--Commerce Department officials expect price drops by next fall on the products which have soared highest in the post OPA rise--like cotton goods and food.

The forecast is made in a cautious report on commodity prices, soon to be published. On the basis of the official report, commerce department economists gave these unofficial conclusions over the weekend in interviews:

1. The downtrend will be mild, now approaching the depth of a true "recession."
2. It will start around midyear with drops in a few lines, then gain speed as more items come into a balance with demand.
3. It will be uneven. Some prices may still be rising while those farthest out of line come down.

The study lists these items as priced "far in excess" of their usual place in the wholesale price structure and therefore highly likely to decline:

Food, cotton goods, shoes, lumber, paint, drugs, leather, fats and oils.

- - - -



From New York Journal of Commerce, Mar. 14 -

**BEETLE QUARANTINE SET IN GEORGIA COTTON AREA** - Atlanta - The white-fringed beetle quarantine and regulations were revised to place the State of Georgia under quarantine, effective March 15, because of the finding of infestation of such beetles in the State last spring and summer.

In the grub stage, this wingless insect pest was reported to have destroyed large acreages in both cotton and corn.

Parts of 23 counties in Georgia were designated as regulated areas. Minor additions to the regulated areas in Alabama and Mississippi were also made by the revision.

- - - - -

**HERALD TRIBUNE RUNNING SERIES OF ARTICLES ON BALANCED FARMING AND INDUSTRY** -- A New York Herald Tribune reporter is surveying the work of the T.V.A., and writing a series of articles on the balance of industry and agriculture within its territory. These articles, larded with many stories of successful farming in former sub-marginal territory, are continuing in this newspaper from day to day.

- - - - -

**NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE GETS OUT SPECIAL ISSUE ON FROZEN FOOD CONVENTION** -- A Frozen Food Convention issue of 16 pages, treating with all phases of this industry was issued March 14, 1947, by the New York Journal of Commerce with its regular edition of that date. All segments of the frozen food industry will converge on San Francisco next Wednesday for the Frozen Food Industry Convention and Exposition which opens that day. Programs for various phases of the Convention are outlined. Many of the speakers are listed. This Convention issue is on file in Room 414A, and available to anyone desiring to see it.

- - - - -

From Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Mar. 10 -

**TOBACCO TREATIES URGED** - The raw tobacco industry in the United States has asked the State Department to negotiate new trade treaties with foreign countries to eliminate completely or modify all discriminatory tariffs and quantitative restrictions on imports from this country.

At a recent hearing in Washington, J. Con Lanier of Greenville presented the case for the flue-cured section of the tobacco industry, joining forces with representatives of the burley section in asking for action benefiting "the whole American tobacco industry" in the way of treaties.

Lanier said production of flue-cured burley, and light air-cured tobacco in 1946 was 869,000,000 pounds in excess of domestic consumption, and argued that absence of discriminatory trade practices would give superior quality of American tobacco a comparative advantage in the export market. He claimed, however, that world trade statistics for 15 years or more "show conclusively that, through discriminatory trade policies, United States tobaccos have lost ground and those of foreign countries have gained."

- - - - -

From Oklahoma City, Oklahoman, Mar. 7 -

**CATTLEMEN WARNED NOT TO PUSH PRICE LUCK** - Cattlemen who are holding on to their livestock in hope of still higher prices Thursday were warned to sell or face a boycott by consumers that will force a collapse of the market.

H. H. Mundy, president of the joint livestock committee, said that the supply of cattle for 1947 will be well over the normal demand. Present prices are maintained, he said, by cattlemen refusing to market their stock.

"People won't continue to buy meat at these high prices," said Mundy. "We have already reached the limit in price raises. If it goes any higher it will collapse."

He suggested cattlemen first market their old, non-thrifty animals and keep only the young.

- - - -

From Phoenix Arizona Republic, Mar. 6 -

**AIDING OUR NEIGHBORS** - Editorial - The good neighbor policy is being put to a new constructive use. Our government has wisely decided to assist the Mexican government in eradicating the foot and mouth disease which is prevalent below the border. President Truman has just signed a measure authorizing the secretary of agriculture to lend a helping hand to our Mexican neighbors in their effort to control this epizootic plague.

As President Truman said in signing the aid measure, it marks a new forward step in Western Hemisphere co-operation. Heretofore we have not engaged in this type of aid. Mexican authorities have been unsuccessfully striving to control the foot and mouth disease for many months. With our help it can now be bested.

We are, perhaps, a bit selfish in lending a hand. We do not want the disease to cross the border if we can help it. Were western range cattle to become afflicted, eradication would be very difficult and costly. It is to our interest as well as to the interest of our Mexican neighbors that we assist in stamping out the disease.

- - - -

From Cheyenne Wyoming State Tribune, Mar. 9 -

**PRICES** - Editorial - The federal bureau of agricultural economics, a dispatch from Washington reported yesterday, predicted that business activity will fall off five to 10 per cent in the last half of 1947 unless there is a quick drop in the cost of living.

Such a setback, reported the bureau, would lead to a reduction of eight to 12 per cent in income payments to individuals in the second six months of the year, force wholesale food prices down 15 to 20 per cent, and reduced possibly 20 to 25 per cent the amount farmers expect to get for their crops next fall.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the bureau of agricultural economics, the bureau of labor statistics reported that wholesale prices rose one and one-half per cent during the week ended March 1st, to the highest level in 17 years.

They are still going up.

Contemplating the two bureau's statements, "where do we go from here?"

- - - -



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 25 -

TRUMAN AND AIDES SPEED FOOD RELIEF: PRESIDENT SEES CABINET BOARD--SENATE GROUP REPORTS BILL TO EXTEND EXPORT POWERS--Washington--President Truman spent forty minutes today with his Cabinet Food Committee reviewing the world food crisis.

Attending were Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture; W. Averell Harriman, Secretary of Commerce; Willard Thorpe, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, and Tracy Voorhees, who is in charge of the Army's food program in occupied areas.

With all foreign relief appropriations nearly expended and the Second War Powers Act due to expire March 31, the administration is approaching the status of "no funds, no authority," unless Congress acts.

A major problem is the continuing of priorities on box cars to complete the great grain export program to needy nations. This would need extensions at once of rail transportation controls under Title III of the Second War Powers Act.

That Congressional leaders were thinking along the same lines became evident later in the day, when the Senate Judiciary Committee reported a bill to extend all controls under Title III for ninety days. This would also include continued allocation of foods in world short supply through the International Emergency Food Council.

FOOD INDEX DROPS AGAIN: BUT PRICE DECLINE IS SLIGHT--STILL 95% ABOVE 1939--Washington--Retail food prices were 0.8 percent lower in the middle of February than in the middle of January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

This was the third consecutive month of slight decline, bringing the retail food price index 3 percent below the record high of mid-November.

Leading price decreases were 6 percent for eggs, 4 percent for dairy products and 1 percent for meats. However, the index still stood 31 percent higher than a year ago, and 95 percent higher than in August, 1939.

CHARGES MILK IS TOO HIGH: LA GUARDIA TELLS HEARING PRICE SHOULD BE LESS HERE--Former Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia said yesterday that city consumers should be paying one cent a quart less for milk. He also maintained that dairy farmers should be receiving two cents a quart more than they are getting.

Mr. La Guardia was the only speaker at a hearing to touch upon the general issue of prices at the session called by the production and marketing administration of the United States Department of Agriculture. Appearing as "the unauthorized spokesman for unorganized consumers," Mr. La Guardia contended that the consumer "got no benefit" from the decline in the farm price of milk Feb. 1 and again March 1. He charged that the reduction "went into the pocket of the middleman." This contention was denied by Edward O. Mather, executive director of the Milk Dealers Association of Metropolitan New York. Farm Digest 585-7

From Wall Street Journal, March 25 -

CORN SPOILS ON ILLINOIS FARMS FOR WANT OF BOY CARS TO MOVE IT.--The deteriorating grain contains a lot of water. If it is not hustled toward market before warm weather sets in, heavy losses will result. Germination will begin. And it will be of no use to corn refiners and other processors now begging for grain.

A lot of this train-deserted corn is being moved by truck. But the trucks aren't equal to the job. Available trucks can't begin to replace lacking railroad facilities.

Another corn headache: To be shipped overseas, this grain has to be specially dried out to prevent spoilage; and there aren't enough drying facilities.

- - - -

WHEAT BUYING BY THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE RESUMED SOON--Despite earlier promises that no more wheat would be bought until the new crop comes in, the Agriculture Department may be bidding for the grain again in the near future. On the prospect of a super bumper U.S. harvest of 1.2 billion bushels, some top Government officials urge more buying. The object: To maintain heavy exports during May and June.

Agriculture Secretary Anderson is hesitant. But pressure from above may force him to give in. If so, his agents will be buying spring wheat in Northwestern states for shipment through the Great Lakes as soon as the ice is out.

Meanwhile Government wheat buying has already so "cleaned out" the Southwest that Texas-Oklahoma flour millers are trying to buy wheat in Dakotas.

- - - -

INDIAN SUMMER OF INFLATION IS PROBABLY CHARTED IN TODAY'S COMMODITY PRICES--Don't expect the spurt since the year end to continue much longer. The odds are against such a course. The "Truman Doctrine" doesn't alter this prospect--unless it involves far greater foreign expenditure than anything yet indicated.

In keenest demand for foreign aid is wheat. Yet when the king cereal recently peeped above the \$3 a bushel level, it was slapped down nearly 30 cents in two days. That was the worst two day wheat break in seven years. (Erratic grains popped up again yesterday.) Hogs have had some \$2.50 clipped from their recent high of \$30 a hundred pounds.

With wholesale stocks of canned food well above a year ago, food prices face the impact of another big pack this spring and summer--though it may be smaller than last year's pack. And food prices also face the ever swelling flood of consumer goods snatching at the public dollar.

- - - -



From St. Paul, (Minn.) Pioneer Press, March 17 -

SOLONS SECRETLY SIFT GRAIN MART-Washington-Market speculations, particularly in grains, have raised congressional eyebrows to the point where one committee has quietly been investigating the matter for several weeks it was learned here exclusively Sunday.

The House food investigation committee, headed by Rep. Andresen R.Minn., has been conducting the probe, but refuses to acknowledge this fact.

Apparently the committee is hoping to pin down certain information already made available to members of the committee and then will order an open investigation to bust speculative practices wide open.

Apart from actions federal agencies have taken to curb trading fever in commodity futures, the subcommittee of the House agriculture committee has carried on its work on its own initiative. Involved are recent speculations in both grains and cotton.

- - - -

From Hartford, (Conn.) Times, March 17 -

EXPERTS TONING DOWN PREDICTIONS OF CRASH: THINGS MAY BE WORSE FOR FARMERS BUT BIG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY ANTICIPATED-Washington-Government experts, who have emphasized since last September the probability of a sharp drop off in business this fall, now are beginning to walk more softly.

Things will be worse for the farmer, they have predicted, with big volume production in industry affording more outlets for the consumer dollar.

The Agriculture Department has been among those government bureaus which were flying economic storm signals.

Now its Bureau of Agricultural Economics has changed its tune--or at least--softened the emphasis.

- - - -

From Wichita (Kan.) Beacon, March 16 -

WICHITA FARMING AREA PROSPERITY REVEALED-The American farmer today is in the strongest financial position in 30 years and farm prosperity is, especially noticeable in the Wichita trade region, Dr. P. H. Stephens, director of research for the Farm Credit Administration at Wichita, reported to the chamber of commerce Saturday.

Dr. Stephens, who is a member of the chamber's agricultural committee said that farm mortgages and short term loans by farmers are only about one half the volume following the first World War. He said the whole agricultural situation "is unusually sound."

- - - -

From Louisville (Ky) Times-March 17 -

NOT BAD FARMING-As reported by the LaGrange Times, twenty nine families who purchased their Oldham County farms through the Farmers Home Administration averaged in 1946 \$4,556 gross. If this' thirty two percent was used to pay on their farm purchase loans. The rest was used to pay off other debts, to operate the farm and the home.

The average family in this group had, therefore, about \$3,000 a year on which to live.

The Oldham figures suggest that most of the purchasers of farms through FHA knew how to farm, or quickly learned how. The report here referred to does not show how many of them began as experienced farmers.

- - - -

From Sacramento, (Calif.) Bee, March 14 -

BUYER RESISTANCE FORCES DOWN CANNED, PACKAGED FOOD PRICES-Buyer resistance has caused general reductions in the wholesale prices of canned goods and packaged foods which are expected to be passed on to the consumer through retail stores. This was the announcement today of wholesale grocers of the price cuts range from 1 to 5 cents or more per can or package, and from 10 cents to \$1.50 per case.

"The buyer resistance is quite prevalent," one wholesale grocer said, "and I personally do not blame the housewives. They have been getting along with lower priced goods and this automatically will bring down the price of items they now feel are too high."

He revealed his wholesale house has submitted a list of new prices to retailers containing 283 items. Of these 264 are listed at reduced figures whereas only 19 are priced higher than last month. The latter are mostly wheat items, such as white flour and some corn meal and wheat cereals.

- - - -

From Buffalo, (NY) Courier-Express, March 19 -

HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE-Editorial-Cattle growers, especially in the Southwest, are alarmed at the spread of the hoof and mouth disease in Mexico. They are afraid that it will spread across the Rio Grande, even though importation of cattle from Mexico has been banned. Congress has authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to spend funds to help Mexico eradicate or minimize the disease within its own borders.

All consumers in the United States should be alarmed too. If large numbers of cattle in the United States have to be slaughtered to prevent the spread of hoof and mouth disease, meat will become scarcer and meat prices ever higher.

The disease is highly contagious and difficult to suppress. It is hard to detect in its early stages, and infected animals may spread it before they show symptoms.

Most forms do not cause heavy mortality, but infected animals lose weight and have to be refattened.

- - - -



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 14 -

**ACTION SET TO BAR POTATO SURPLUSES: AGRICULTURE AGENCY MAY SELL PRODUCT TO CONSUMERS AT LESS THAN SUPPORT PRICES**-Washington-The Agriculture Department moved today to curb possible potato surpluses by devising a "big stick" formula whereby, if necessary, it will sell potatoes at less than the support price at which the Government acquires them.

The department's plan included the following succinct statement on policy:

"Potatoes acquired under the price support program will be subject to resale in consumer markets at less than support prices."

This feature of the new program would act against those growers who might not enter into acreage agreements in expectation that the Government support price or more would prevail in consumer markets. With the Government prepared to sell at less than the support price, growers thus could not count on a price for production outside the program.

The department is endeavoring to prevent potato surpluses by regulating production and agreeing to buy the produce of cooperating growers at stipulated prices if the market falls below those figures.

- - - -

**STRACHEY CHEERFUL OVER FOOD OUTLOOK**-London-Barring unforeseen developments Great Britain will weather the coming six months without critical developments in her food supply, John Strachey, Minister of Food, said tonight upon his return from the United States and Canada. He added that the present ration scales for bread and meat would continue.

The Food Minister reported himself as well pleased with the results of his trip.

Mr. Strachey said American officials had been most cooperative and that heavy shipments of wheat from the United States to help Britain build a stockpile against next winter's hazards had been assured.

Asked concerning his reported purchase of 10,000 tons of turkeys, the Food Minister said that the deal had not been formally closed. He said that the turkeys acquired would be purchased at the Department of Agriculture's support price and the price would be comparable to prices he would pay for American beef.

- - - -

**ABSOLVES TRADERS IN BREAK IN COTTON: ANDERSON FINDS NO MANIPULATION-- SUGGESTS EXCHANGES INCREASE MARGINS**-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson urged today further corrective measures to prevent excess speculation on the cotton futures markets in making public his department's official report on last October's debacle. The investigators found that the basic trouble that led to the collapse of cotton was one for which the Commodities Exchange Act provides no controls. No evidence was found of manipulative effort to "break" the market. Instead, the crash was due to a soft structure built on speculation. Involved were many small accounts of "thinly margined speculative buyers from every major section of the country." Larger margins were pronounced the obvious remedy and one which is possible for the exchanges themselves to apply, department officials pointed out.

- - - -

From New York Times, March 14 -

APPEALS IN RICE SHORTAGE: 'WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ASKS MANY LANDS TO HELP BAR FAMINE-Washington-The International Emergency Food Council said today that the world rice shortage was becoming worse and asked producing countries to help meet the emergency.

In a communication to Governments of all countries where rice is grown the IEFC said that for the current crop year ending June 30, world import rice available and allotted by the IEFC amounts to 2,800,000 metric tons.

"This amount has to supply nations whose prewar imports were more than 7,700,000 metric tons," the communication said, "and which now have larger populations to feed than before the war."

"If famines are to be avoided it is apparent greater efforts must be made."

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 14 -

ANDERSON ASKS ACTION TO HALT 'SPECULATION' IN COMMODITIES-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson called tonight for "further corrective measures" to curb "speculative excesses" in the nation's commodity markets.

This reference to commodity speculation, made in a formal statement was Anderson's second in two days.

In a radio interview last night, he said he believed speculation is "talking loudly" in the grain market, which has been marked by sharp price increases in recent weeks.

Anderson made no specific proposals, however, beyond one now pending before the Commodity Exchange Commission to reduce speculative holdings of cotton futures.

- - - -

U.S. 'WHEAT STOCK FACES NEW DRAIN-Washington-Because the United States is rapidly becoming the only country from which foreign buyers of wheat can expect substantial and prompt shipments this summer, export demands on the new winter wheat crop are expected to exceed even the heavy movement of last summer, leading agricultural economists here believe.

Both Canada and Argentina are reported to have failed to ship the quantities of wheat predicted for movement from these countries earlier in the crop year, and several European nations now face the alternative of reducing their bread rations or coming into the U.S. market for substantial deliveries in July, August and September.

- - - -

CHARGES FOOD MANUFACTURERS MISLEAD PUBLIC ON SUGAR-Washington-Charging that there is no sugar shortage and that hence sugar rationing is unnecessary, Walter S. Mack, Jr., president of Pepsi Cola Co., today alleged that the American people are being deliberately given a false picture of sugar availability and supplies. Appearing before the House Banking and Currency Committee Mr. Mack contended that with the Cuban sugar crop the largest in history, there is actually a surplus.

Manufacturers of sugar containing products, he charged, are spreading a "false picture" of the sugar situation to keep the American public on short sugar rations because this meant that the housewife would not be able to <sup>do</sup> her own home canning and preserving and is thus forced to buy the manufacturers' expensive finished products on which there are no price ceilings.

- - - -



From Trainman News, Mar. 8 -

CAR 'SHORTAGE' PHONY; TRAINS HELD FOR TOLNAGE, - BLAME FOR SLUGGISH FREIGHT MOVEMENT IS PLACED ON CARRIERS - Evidence that the so-called "shortage" of freight cars is largely phony piled up at Grand Lodge headquarters in Cleveland this week as Trainmen News went to press.

Reports from hundreds of BRT members throughout the U. S. and Canada showed that the real reason for sluggish movement of raw materials and finished products to factories and retail outlets was gross inefficiency and mishandling of rolling stock by railroad management.

The letters indicated that carriers are holding box cars at terminals to make up excessively long and unsafe trains. That this practice is widespread was proved by the many specific examples cited by Brotherhood members.

"Undoubtedly some new equipment is needed by the carriers," President Whitney said, "but the problem could be quickly solved for the time being at least if railroads would streamline their handling of cars at terminals and discontinue the practice of holding for tonnage trains."

- - - - -

From Roanoke (Va.) Times, Mar. 6 -

DAIRYMEN EXPRESS URGED FOR STATE LABORATORY - Dr. E. E. Thompson, Salem veterinarian, stressed the need for a state laboratory in Roanoke, particularly for mastitis testing, in an address at a meeting of the Roanoke county dairy conference committee yesterday.

In regard to Dr. Thompson's statement, C. D. M. Showalter emphasized the conference committee has been working for the establishment of such a laboratory here and announced that a representative of the state veterinary department will be here for a week soon to test cows. Tests will be made at the small laboratory at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  Franklin road and Showalter urged the dairymen to take advantage of the testing offer.

Discussing various cattle diseases, Dr. Thompson urged the group to aid in preventing the entry of foot and mouth disease in the United States by cooperating in the move to combat the disease in Mexico.

- - - - -

From Topeka (Kans.) Capital, Mar. 5 -

HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE - Editorial - Cattle growers, especially in the Southwest, are alarmed at the spread of the hoof and mouth disease in Mexico. They are afraid that it will spread across the Rio Grande, even though importation of cattle from Mexico has been banned. Congress has authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to spend funds to help Mexico eradicate or minimize the disease within its own borders.

All consumers in the United States should be alarmed, too. If large numbers of cattle in the United States have to be slaughtered to prevent the spread of hoof-and-mouth, meat will become scarcer and meat prices will be even higher.

The disease is highly contagious and difficult to suppress. It is hard to detect in its early stages, and infected animals may spread it before they show symptoms. Most forms do not cause heavy mortality, but infected animals lose weight and have to be re-fattened. Infected cows give no milk for a time, perhaps never again.

- - - - -

From Portland (Me.) Press Herald, Mar. 6 -

**DOUBLE VALUE** - It is, of course, natural for Portland to view with approval announcement of the Government's decision to ship 85,000 tons of seed potatoes out of this port. That is a considerable undertaking, and will spread no small measure of prosperity along the waterfront where a longish period of idleness has created dismay and hardship.

It is not to be overlooked, however, that the decision to ship the potatoes is of immense benefit to the growers, and will spread no small rewards where but a few days ago the outlook was for plowing the remaining, unsold part of Arrostook's huge crop back into the soil. If Senator Brewster is equally successful in getting the army to buy 10,000,000 bushels of table potatoes for export abroad, Maine farmers will find their path greatly smoothed.

The potatoes, both seed and table, are to go to Germany as part of the new realization that the people in the American Zone and others must be fed and be enabled eventually to feed themselves. There has been a deal of shilly-shallying over this simple piece of common sense. We balked, officially, at doing too much to make the German lot easier; sometimes there seemed to be in our attitude something of the Morgenthau punitive plan. Gone, too, are the old bits of nonsense about the "unshippability" of potatoes. We're on the ball at last, and everybody profits, except the United States Treasury; and perhaps that will profit also through shortening the time we have to stay in Germany and decreasing the occupation bill.

From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Mar. 7 -

**FARM LAND PRICES LEVELING OFF** - Editorial - More authoritative testimony has been added to recent warning that continued speculation in farm lands may well lead to a recurrence of the tragic '20s, when foreclosures and sheriffs' sales were the order of the day.

"There are now indications that farm real estate prices are beginning to level off after the rapid increases of the war years," reports the Monthly Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

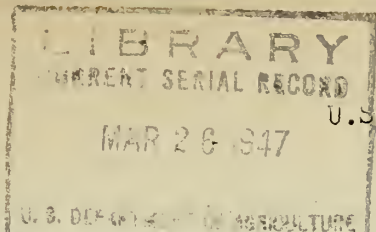
"On November 1 the index of value per acre of farm land in the six States (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, which comprise the Sixth Federal Reserve District), based on the 1935-39 period, had risen to 198. Since that date the available evidence strongly suggests, activity in the land market has decreased, with little change in land prices. The upward trend of land values may be continuing in some sections, but it appears that the peak of the land boom has been reached in the District as a whole."

From Huntsville (Ala.) Times, Mar. 7 -

**GOOD EXAMPLE** - Editorial - Decentralization of industry is no cure-all for economic problems of the less prosperous sections of the country, but Mississippi's experience with its Balance Agriculture With Industry act demonstrates what can be achieved through developing new industries in rural areas.

The state's program for encouraging industries is credited with having helped in the establishment of 100 new industries in 30 months. Payrolls for these new enterprises amount to about \$10,000,000 annually, and additional employment opportunities will be created as negotiations are completed for more plants.



1.914  
A2D14DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 24, 1947)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 24 -

BUSINESS BACKS U.S. IN STAND ON TRADE: TRUMAN CALL FOR FREE SYSTEM /T APRIL PARLEY IN GENEVA WINS GENERAL SUPPORT-Despite much detailed criticism and inner conflict, the American business community as a whole strongly supports the principles and objectives of the Truman Administration's program for the Geneva Conference scheduled to open on April 10.

The conference will bring together the eighteen principal trading nations of the world, outside of Russia, to adopt the charter of an International Trade Organization and to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements.

Business men here expect the principal issue to lie in the fundamental differences between the American concept of freer world trade, with an expanding economy based upon maximum encouragement of free enterprise and competition, and the British and European preference for socialization and cartelization.

- - - - -

\$2 BILLION IN FOOD EXPORTED IN 1946; COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORT PUTS RISE OVER '45 AT 29.5%—CASH PAID FOR 62.5%—Washington—More than \$2,000,000,000 worth of food was exported from this country in 1946, the Department of Commerce reported tonight.

The dollar value, \$2,166,496,000, was 29.5 per cent more than 1945. Of this, \$1,353,579,000, or 62.5 per cent, was paid for in cash while United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and lendlease made up the rest. Only 28.2 percent of 1945 food shipments were paid for in cash.

UNRRA shipments were valued at \$628,493,000 last year, more than double what they were in 1945, but lend lease shipments, valued at \$184,424,000 were less than a fifth of their 1945 total.

Imports of foodstuffs into this country rose to \$1,342,148,000 last year, up 16.2 percent from the previous year.

Among the exports greatest increases in 1946 over 1945 were in meat products, grains and fruits.

- - - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 24 -

WORLD WHEAT PACT-Committees of the International Wheat Conference will begin work today on drafting of the proposed world wheat agreement, but as yet Argentina's reaction to setting of a maximum price has not been received, and some observers believe this is essential to success of any agreement.

- - - - -

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, March 24 -

SUGAR-New package differentials on refined sugar were made operative by refiners on Saturday following OPA sanction to the refiners to adjust prices. The increase to better than 6,000,000 tons in estimates for the 1947 Cuban crop is believed to be a factor in House action in cutting the Government control period to October 31, instead of March 31, 1948, as many had expected.

- - - -

FROZEN FOOD OUTLOOK-Frozen foods industry convention and exposition end in San Francisco on an optimistic note, with most trade leaders convinced that the worst of the postwar price chaos in their field is over, and much of the burdensome carryover liquidated. Packers, meanwhile, are curtailing packs in favor of quality, and strengthening their sales position through use of brokers.

- - - -

N.E. POULTRY PRODUCERS ADOPT 5-POINT PROGRAM-Trumansburg, NY.- John V.B. Rice, vice president and New York Director of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, announced today a 5-point NEPPCO legislative program which he said will be taken to Washington for sustained action in cooperation with other poultry organizations.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 24 -

ANDERSON SEEKS CHANGES IN PARITY FORMULAS TO MEET NEW CONDITIONS: AGRICULTURE SECRETARY CITES CHANGES IN FARMING METHODS AND SHIFTS IN DEMAND SINCE 1914-"Creaks in the joints of the parity system are becoming apparent," writes Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, in today's issue of Barron's, National Business and Financial Weekly.

Since the rather distant base period of 1909-14 the Secretary declares, "production of some grains has become highly mechanized and they can be grown more cheaply now than then. On the other hand, milk and meat cost more to produce, and parity prices would not furnish producers with sufficient returns."

The Secretary says he has proposed to House and Senate committees that parity formulas be changed to take into account technological changes and shifts in demand for farm products. He declares, however, that any changes should not affect carrying our wartime promises to farmer of price support.

Mr. Anderson asserts that Steagall prices (the Steagall amendment to the Price Control Act of 1942 pledges price supports until Dec. 1, 1948) to producers of several farm crops on potatoes and eggs are too high.

He warns farmers that they may face January 1, 1949, with an expanded producing apparatus and a glutted market. Some method must be devised to bring production into line with demand by acreage control, the Secretary concludes. He would do this by positive curbs. He declares against letting prices find their free market level, with the Government making the difference to the farmer.

- - - -



From the Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 16 -

GRAIN BOXCAR LACK CITED; THATCHER BLAMES 'EASTERN HIJACKERS.' - The nation is running into a wheat shortage this spring which will be much worse than in the spring of 1946, unless country elevators are furnished boxcars to move the grain to market, M.W. Thatcher, general manager of Farmers Union Grain Terminal association said Saturday.

Thatcher based his warning on the growing volume of telegrams protesting the failure of railroads to deliver boxcars and on a personal trip through Montana and North Dakota.

Thatcher said that while "statistically there is a real shortage of railway cars and the nation needs at least 100,000 new cars to meet traffic requirements, the situation is much worse in the grain areas than in other parts of the nation."

He attributed the present grain crisis to "kidnaping and hijacking" of boxcars by eastern railroads.

- - -

From the Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 16 -

FARMER HOLDS MEAT CONTROLS, EXPERT SAYS - Unlimited sources of market information places the farmer in a most favorable position to influence the trend of meat prices, Oscar Swenson, chairman of the state senate agricultural committee, asserted Saturday.

The farmer's ability to regulate the flow of meat animals to market, based on information available, gives him basic control, Swenson said.

- - -

From the Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, March 17 -

PUREBRED HOG RAISERS ANGRY; SAY HYBRID VARIETIES ONLY EXPERIMENTS - Purebred hog associations are leveling their guns at the so-called hybrid hogs which thus far are mostly in the experimental stage.

Thousands of words are being published to show that (1) hybrid hogs are not really hybrids in the same sense that hybrid corn is a hybrid; (2) so-called hybrid hogs have not proved any superiority over purebreds; (3) experiment stations are just wasting their time trying to produce superior types of swine by crossing inbred strains.

Producers of purebreds have an excellent opportunity to prove their case, if their case is sound.

They have only to produce purebreds that are better than any kind of crossbreds.

- - -

From the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, March 18 -

ENRICHING FLOUR - Editorial - Vermont is one of several states in the process of enacting legislation for the enrichment of white flour, in order that bread and other products made with this flour may be more nutritious. This was a federal requirement during the war, but when the federal war powers ended, this was made the responsibility of the States. A bill to provide for this was introduced in the Senate early in the session (S.7) and has passed the Senate. It has been reported that some questions were raised by dairy farmers who feared that it might mean using less milk in bread, but there is really no cause for worry in that regard. No food values already going into bread will be omitted, but the enrichment in the form of vitamins will be added.

- - -

From the Boston (Mass.) Herald, March 17 -

THE POTATO CRIME - Editorial - There may be no use in crying over spilt-milk potatoes. But the millions of bushels of spuds that have been destroyed this winter while the ugly edema of hunger bloated the starved tissues of peoples abroad ought to make us wonder whether we did all we could.

Mostly we accept agricultural surpluses in this country as nuisances. The government is already preparing to crack down on growers who exceed the 1947 acreage limitations. But Governor Hildreth of Maine is one who greets surpluses as a challenge. He is pressing for a plan to use a four percent mixture of potato flour with wheat in bread and cake, which would, on a national scale, take care of any surplus. This has been done in the past, and the resulting product is improved, being moister and better keeping. The wheat saved could, if it is more efficient to do so, be sent abroad.

We ought to understand at once that there will never be in the foreseeable future any real world agricultural surpluses.

- - -

From the Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, March 14 -

COTTON CROP INSURANCE FAILURE - Editorial - Inability of the Department of Agriculture to meet payments for losses of half the cotton crop losses last year is an indication either of faulty fundamental planning or grossly inefficient administration of the entire crop insurance program. It is the second time within five years that the crop insurance program has run into difficulty...Now the Agriculture Department reports it lacks \$20,000,000 plus administrative expenses, to cover the cost of the program for last year.

Figures released by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson show that losses on the cotton crop alone last year amounted to more than four times the premiums paid. Such a costly error on the part of a private insurance company probably would throw the firm into bankruptcy and certainly would cause the immediate discharge of the actuary responsible. But an agency of the Government seemingly can operate with the most inexcusable lack of foresight and then come crawling to Congress for an appropriation to make up the deficit.

The cotton farmers who paid for crop insurance hold a bona fide contract with the Government and it is incumbent upon the Government to meet the obligation without expensive delay for the farmers. Meanwhile, Congress should order a thorough investigation of the crop insurance program as a whole and demand that the Secretary of Agriculture place it upon a business basis which will enable the program to cover all contingencies.

- - -

From the Birmingham (Ala.) News--Age--Herald, March 16 -

THE TRUTH AT AUBURN - Editorial - One thing would seem to be beyond question in all the controversy over the Extension Service of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn. It is that the public is in need of more information on the record and activities of this organization.

There are those who say that it is to be taken for granted that the Extension Service does engage in political activity, that everybody familiar with its activities knows that it does, that such activity is to be expected in the nature of things. But this is much too general a comment to provide satisfaction to the people of Alabama. If there is such activity, to what extent does it prevail and of exactly what kind is it? What about the efficiency of the service? These questions are so widespread, so insistent, that more light on the whole subject is urgently needed. Those who maintain that the Extension Service has been unjustly attacked should welcome a fair inquiry as should those who have criticisms and charges to make.



1.914

72 D14

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 18, 1947)

LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAR 21 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which those agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 18 -

U.S. SIGNS PACT ON MEXICAN CATTLE: ANDERSON REVEALS ACTION IN FIGHT ON HOOF-MOUTH DISEASE---\$9,000,000 ASKED--Washington--Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced today that he had signed the Sanitary Agreement setting up the joint United States Mexican campaign against the foot and mouth disease outbreak in Mexico.

He said that he had asked the Budget Bureau for a \$9,000,000,000 appropriation to cover the costs until June 30 and that the Mexican Government would match funds on a 50-50 basis.

The Secretary's remarks, made at a luncheon given by Representative George W. Gillie, Republican, of Indiana, in honor of the Mexican members of the Joint Agriculture Commission, marked the conclusion of several weeks of negotiations. The guests included members of both House and Senate agriculture subcommittees hearing the bills recently enacted to empower Secretary Anderson to join the Mexican Government in a vigorous eradication program.

The scope of the contemplated campaign was indicated by the Secretary's estimate that 150,000 infected cattle would be killed under the agreement.

The joint agreement calls for the setting up of headquarters in Mexico City, with a director from Mexico and a co-director from the United States. The Bureau of Animal Industry will have charge of this work. It was regarded as a foregone conclusion that S. O. Fladness would be United States head in Mexico.

-----

GRAIN TRADING MARGINS RAISED IN CHICAGO, BUT NOT TO THE LEVELS ASKED BY U.S. AGENCY--Chicago--Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade, at a special meeting today met in part a request by the Commodity Exchange Authority that initial margin requirements on new speculative trades in grain futures be set at 25 percent of the current market price.

Effective tomorrow, margin requirements on March and May wheat will be 60 cents a bushel, or about 22 percent of the closing price today on May wheat, while the margin on the July and September was set at 40 cents, or less than 20 percent of the market price. The old rate on all wheat futures was 30 cents a bushel.

Margins on corn were advanced 6 cents to 24 cents a bushel, and on oats 6 cents to 18 cents. Barley margins, under the new scale will be 40 cents or 10 cents higher than heretofore.

The Minneapolis and Kansas City exchanges have acceded in whole or in part to the Government request for higher margins.

(Other items appearing in today's  
New York Times are on page 2 of  
the Digest.)

From New York Times, March 18 -

INCREASED EXPORTS OF WHEAT DOUBTED: FAO WARNS GROWING NATIONS TO ACT NOW, HOWEVER, TO AVOID POST EMERGENCY GLUT-Washington-A review of the world wheat situation issued today by the Food and Agriculture Organization, said that little if any increase in export supply in growing countries could be anticipated in the 1947-48 crop year.

Warning, however, that "burdensome surpluses may accumulate" during the transition period after the present food emergency the FAO urged "positive wheat policies developed by multilateral consultation among governments instead of drastic curtailment."

Representative policies on which governments should cooperate were listed as follows:

Agreement on a range of prices fair to exporting and importing countries, and observation of these prices in international wheat dealings.

Management of export supplies through agreed upon export quotas, "particularly when world supplies threaten to become excessive at the agreed price."

Developing and administering arrangements for sales at special prices was recommended in the Report of the FAO Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals.

- - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 18 -

FARM CREDIT LOAN PRIORITY UPHELD-Washington-The Supreme Court held today that Farm Credit Administration loans must be repaid before other creditors get anything from a farmer's estate.

Justice Rutledge delivered the court's 8-1 decision, reading it for Justice Murphy, who was the author, but was absent from the bench today. Justice Douglas dissented, holding that lower courts should have been upheld. South Dakota courts had denied the United States priority.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 18 -

GALLOPING GRAIN prices give Government market regulators goose pimples-

First they fear a continued climb, particularly in wheat prices, because it makes more likely a sudden and violent reaction. Commodity Exchange Authority officials see a host of get rich quick "little fellows" romping in the futures markets.

The second worry is that present prices are gouging foreign and domestic flour buyers. Should wheat prices keep mounting, the Agriculture Department might decide to turn loose some of its wheat to help millers out. As of February 1, the Commodity Corp. held about 50 million bushels more than was needed to meet export commitments through April.

Meanwhile Government requested margin hikes in grain futures trading won't in themselves hold prices down, grain experts say. Their contention: Government buying, not speculation, is the real gas in the balloon.

- - - -



From Washington Daily News, Mar. 17 -

CONGRESS GETS A BREAK - With U. S. buying power and the European food situation as it is, Congress doesn't have to worry for the moment about troublesome farm surpluses.

What surpluses there are, such as in eggs, potatoes and turkeys, are taken care of so far as the farmers are concerned by the farm price support program which runs until Dec. 31, 1948.

The Government so far has lost about \$80,000,000 supporting potato prices. It expects to spend about \$500,000 supporting the price of dried skim milk. It doesn't know how much it will have to spend supporting turkey prices at a national average of 27.9 cents per pound to farmers and egg prices at 33 cents a dozen to farmers in the Mid West.

The Agriculture Department is optimistic about the egg situation because of the high consumption rate and the large purchases of dried eggs for Britain. It has started buying frozen eggs to support the market. It made its first turkey purchase last week of 35,000 pounds.

But storm clouds are on the horizon. So Chairman Clifford Hope of the House Agriculture Committee will hold extensive hearings in April and May on what Congress needs to do in the way of long-range legislation.

Rep. Hope's idea is to hold hearings this year, and then write legislation next year.

-----

From Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, Mar. 11 -

FEEDERS RAP TRADE PACTS - The Corn Belt Livestock Feeders Association wants Congress to have sole authority to make trade agreements with foreign countries.

At its recent meeting in Chicago it passed a resolution asking that the trade agreement authority be removed from the State Department.

Another resolution requests a change in the method of reporting market prices paid for livestock. The feeders groups requests that the Department of Agriculture and the livestock markets report not only the prices paid for various grades of livestock but also the percentage of sales falling into each class.

-----

From Salt Lake City(Utah) Tribune, Mar. 9 -

EXPERT ISSUES WARNING ON CATTLE DISEASE - Warning as to the extreme contagiousness of foot and mouth disease, which can be brought into a clean area by failure of shearers to fumigate clothing and shoes, was issued Saturday by Dr. John I. Curtis, Utah state veterinarian.

Although Utah is not a border state and does not have laws requiring fumigation of shearers' outfits, Mexican shearing outfits sometimes infiltrate into this area, Lavar Taylor, president, International Sheep Shearers' Union of North America, Butte, warned Utah sheep growers.

-----

From El Paso(Tex.) Times, Mar. 7 -

**THE BORDER FENCE** - Editorial - After going into the subject of whether or not a fence should be built along the U. S. Mexican border, The Times has come to the conclusion that such a fence would be impractical. It would not serve the purpose for which it was intended and it would work a hardship on ranchers whose cattle obtain their water from the Rio Grande.

Talk of building the fence has reached almost a fever pitch since the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Mexico. Main support for the fence has come from those who said they thought it would keep out of this country Mexican cattle and other animals that might bring the disease across the border. Does anyone think the fence would not be cut if cattle were being kept from water?

And how could such a fence possibly prevent buzzards from flying from one side of the border to the other? Persons who are opposed to such a fence should let Washington know their views. A mistaken idea prevails in our capital that residents along the border are strongly in favor of it.

- - - - -

From Canton (Ohio) Repository, Mar. 8 -

**HOW TO MOVE THOSE SPUDS** - Editorial - Congressmen are worried about the nation's huge surplus of potatoes. Recently the House and Senate dining room menus included potato bread, potato cake and potato chips, the latter furnished by the National Potato Chip Institute, which chipped in to help finance the meal.

Use of potato flour in bread and other bakery products is one of the proposals recommended, but it isn't the cook and the pastry chef who can do the best job of devising ways to move the potato surplus. What's needed are scientists well-grounded in organic chemistry.

Remember what happened when George Washington Carver devoted his attention to the peanut, which, like the potato, is made up mostly of hydrocarbons? He found half a hundred new uses for it.

Turn a good organic chemist loose on the potato and there'd be potato bath mats, potato perfume, potato lubricants and a potato plastic.

- - - - -

From Newark (N.J.) News, Mar. 11 -

**PRICE HIKE IN BREAD** - Editorial - A rise in the price of bread, ranging from  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to 3 cents a loaf, has suddenly swept across the country. Increased costs of labor and ingredients are given as the reason, but the spontaneity of the increase is strongly suggestive of a close community of interest existing among the commercial bakers, with the smaller fry in the industry tagging along. It is of no small significance that one large chain store, operating in this area, has declared that its bread prices would remain at present levels and that it saw "no immediate prospect" of an increase.

In Newark and vicinity a 1-cent increase in the retail price in many stores was announced as effective yesterday, after wholesalers had given notice of a half-cent increase in the wholesale price. Obviously the 1-cent retail boost means a larger profit for storekeepers who put it into effect.

- - - - -



Reserve DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 19, 1947)

LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAR 21 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

1.914  
72D14 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service Room. Telephone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 19 -

WHEAT PLUMMENTS 18½ CENTS IN DAY: OPENS AT \$3.05, UP 8½ CENTS, A 30-YEAR HIGH, BUT REACTS LIMIT WHEN LONGS UNLOAD—Chicago—Wheat and corn futures broke badly today on the Chicago Board of Trade after a higher opening. March wheat was up 8½ cents a bushel at the start to \$3.05, a new high since May 9, 1917. But the market turned reactionary later, the price breaking 18½ cents from the top with the finish at \$2.86½, off 10 cents, the permissible limit, from Monday's closing level. May and July wheat also closed at the bottom, off 10 cents and September was 93/4 to 10 cents lower. Corn futures finished 73/4 to 8 cents lower, the latter the limit for one day's operation. Oats lost 4½ to 5 5/8 cents and barley was unchanged to 2 cents lower.

- - - - -

HIGH MEAT PRICES SCORED BY WILSON: SAYS PUBLIC IS BACKING OFF—Chicago—Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of Wilson & Co., meat packers, said today "that the American people are backing off from high prices."

At an annual stockholders' meeting Mr. Wilson said "that prices are too high—\$30 cattle is too high priced."

"The country would be better off if the prices of livestock went down," he added.

- - - - -

HARVESTER ISSUES LIST OF PRICE CUTS: \$20,000,000 TOTAL COVERS 163 MODELS OF TRACTORS, FARM MACHINES AND TRUCKS—Chicago—International Harvester Company, in accordance with its announced program of reducing prices by approximately \$20,000,000 a year, made public today specific price reductions in 163 basic models of tractors, farm machines, industrial power equipment and motor trucks.

The price reductions, made effective as of March 10 in the United States covered twelve farm tractor models, 123 farm machines, sixteen models of industrial tractors and engines, and twelve models of motor trucks.

Reductions on individual items ranged from \$2.50 to \$300 and from 1 percent to 23.8 percent. Prices were not reduced on all Harvester products.

- - - - -

FIRST 'DAILY DIGEST' ISSUED BY CONGRESS—Washington—The "Daily Digest," an official summary of Congressional action, made its debut today as a twenty eight page appendix to the Congressional Record.

The Digest, required by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, is designed to sum up the daily activities of both houses and their committees in five minutes of reading time. The first edition also summarizes principal actions of Congress since the beginning of the current session. Hereafter it will appear daily as a part of the Congressional Record and is expected to be made available separately by subscription for ready reference in looseleaf form. The Digest lists the bills introduced and reported by committees as well as action taken on any measures by either chamber. It contains a list of committee and subcommittee meetings and the subjects with which they dealt and a list of such meetings scheduled for the following day.

- - - - -

Farm Digest 545-47

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 19 -

CEA BILL TO ASK COMMODITY MARGIN POWER: ANDERSON HELD LIKELY TO URGE CONGRESS ACT SPEEDILY ON MEASURE--Washington--Legislation which would give the Commodity Exchange Authority specific power to establish margin requirements for trading in regulated futures markets is now being prepared at CEA, it was learned today.

Such proposed legislation may be sent to the Congress in the next two weeks, along with a request from Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson for early action.

While the proposed legislation is directed primarily toward granting CEA authority to name margin levels, some other changes in CEA's regulatory powers may also be considered in the event that Congress shows a disposition to go along with the margin request, it was indicated.

Dissatisfaction with the operation of the cotton futures markets last October, when the market broke sharply, together with dissatisfaction concerning the failure of the Chicago Board of Trade to accede completely to CEA's request of last week for a 25 percent margin on all new speculative contracts for wheat, are the prime reasons why CEA thinks that now is the time to ask for legislation.

- - - - -

U.S. SUGAR SUPPLY SEEN NORMAL IN '48; PER CAPITA STOCK UP 17 POUNDS THIS YEAR, FORUM SPEAKER STATES--Each person in the United States will find 17 more pounds of sugar available this year than last and probably will be back to his prewar supply by 1948, according to speakers last night on the weekly business forum, conducted by the Commerce and Industry Association over Station WMCA.

Participating in the program were John C. Gardner, president of the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange; Milton L. Huber, director of research and statistics for B. W. Dyer and Co., and Earl T. MacHardy, assistant vice president for Refined Syrups and Sugars, Inc., in Yonkers.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 19 -

REA PASSES \$1 BILLION MARK IN LOAN PROGRAM TO ELECTRIFY RURAL U.S.--Washington--The nation's farms last night figuratively lighted up in a federally sponsored billion dollar blaze of glory.

The occasion: Yesterday the Rural Electrification Administration passed the billion dollar mark in its lending program to electrify rural America.

- - - - -

DELEGATES FROM 40 NATIONS BEGIN PARLEY ON WORLD WHEAT SITUATION--London--Delegates of 40 nations sat down to confer about wheat amid predictions that the conference is likely to produce "tough sledding" and wrangling.

Adding the conference British Food Minister John Strachey said, "one of the facts which we have to deal with is that few, if any, governments today are willing to allow their agriculture to be at the mercy of the unregulated forces of supply and demand in an uncontrolled world market."

- - - - -



From Chicago News, Mar. 11 -

FREIGHT CAR CRISIS PERILS FOOD SUPPLY - Michigan City, Ind. - American railways are short 1,000,000 freight cars.

U. S. industry is being slowed down at loading docks everywhere while shippers whistle in vain for rail equipment.

Wheat and corn are wasting away in weevil and rat-infested country elevators and farm granaries when it might be moving to terminals and ocean liner bound for the world's hungry millions.

Railroads are handicapped by having in service only 1,740,000 cars, 560,000 fewer than they owned in the late '20s. And one third of this reduced number are over age, 25 or more years old.

- - - - -

From Wilkes Barre (Pa.) Times-Leader News, Mar. 12 -

HIGHER BREAD PRICES - Editorial - Bread may be the staff of life, but the public will not lean on it too heavily if prices get out of hand.

Bread will hardly be eliminated from the daily diet of Americans, under any circumstances, but consumption can be, and perhaps will be, radically curtailed. Consumers have shown they can manage on substitutes or on surprisingly little of any product. In the end, those dependent upon wheat for a livelihood, may find they have priced themselves out of a large portion of their business.

Not even bread is indispensable. In fact, many individuals, inclined to overweight, shied away from it when it was plentiful and cheap.

- - - - -

From Fargo (N.D.) Forum, Mar. 12 -

WOULD CONTROL MARKETING NOT FARM OUTPUT - Regulation of farm marketing rather than farm production to keep farm prices at an adequate level -- without the use of federal government subsidies -- was advocated last night by DeLos James, manager of the agricultural department of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

James, who spoke here at a meeting arranged by the Greater North Dakota association, said such un-subsidized regulation might be directed by a bi-partisan board.

He emphasized his personal view that plans based on acreage adjustments are not effective in controlling the amounts of commodities reaching market. He suggested instead that, after demand has been estimated in advance, farm producers be given marketing quotas which would prevent over-supply and resultant low prices.

- - - - -

From Lewiston (Me.) Sun, Mar. 13 -

CROP INSURANCE - Editorial - The disclosure by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson that the Federal crop insurance program lost 120 million in cotton last year is being interpreted to mean that Congress is likely to drop insurance loans to farmers in the next budget.

Crop insurance has suffered setbacks before, and losses became so heavy in 1943 that Congress refused to vote its continuance. It is a New Deal expedient that looks fine in theory, but this latest evidence of its unworkability should convince Congress it ought to be discontinued.

- - - - -

From Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Mar. 13 -

AND NOW IT'S BREAD -Editorial - In an economy such as ours where dollars are spent far more freely than dimes used to be, the lowly penny has lost much of its former significance except in making sales-tax change or in purchasing postage stamps for uncovered correspondence. Yet even a penny still means something very concrete and unpleasant when it represents a rise of approximately ten per cent in the cost of so common a necessity as a loaf of bread.

This time last year The Advertiser was pleading with Congress to hold the price line for the sake of people on fixed income. We pointed out time after time that if basic living costs were permitted to soar, the average family would suffer and still greater industrial strife would be inevitable. But the Republicans, and some of the Democrats who ought to be under the Republican label, crippled OPA and finally have killed it.

Now even the big financial "experts" who screamed for an end to all controls are taking to cover. They see inevitable strikes ahead by people who never would have struck if living costs had been held in line.

- - - -

From Hartford (Conn.) Times, Mar. 12 -

FREE MARKET URGED FOR AGRICULTURE - The best program for the continued prosperity of agriculture is one that allows a free market and a free price, with limited subsidy and limited government control, Dr. Roger B. Corbett, secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation, declared at the Connecticut Milk Producers Association Tuesday night.

"I would like to see the agricultural people in Connecticut act now while there is time to think clearly," he said in urging agricultural leaders to formulate their own national farm program to fill the gap which expiration of the Steagall amendment next year will leave.

Dr. Corbett proposed that the agricultural problems could be solved by a monetary or fiscal policy of which a small commission would control money, credit, interest rates and taxes. "There is no agreement on this plan yet," he explained, "and politically, it has its weak points,"

- - - -

From Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer, Mar. 14 -

THE OLEO ISSUE - Editorial - The State Legislature has just about run out of excuses for keeping on the statute books a prohibition against the sale of yellow oleomargarine.

At the insistence of Ohio dairy interests the Legislature has kept in force a law requiring that oleomargarine sold in Ohio must be white in color when it crosses the grocer's counter to the housewife, who goes home and spends time giving it a butter yellow complexion.

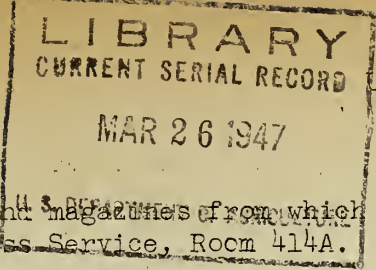
The Legislature ought to pass the bill by Senators Margaret A. Mahoney of Cleveland and Fred G. Reiners of Cincinnati to permit the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine that isn't bleached white. There is no more excuse for the Legislature not doing so than there is for it to pass a bill requiring that only white orangeade be obtainable in Ohio.

- - - -



1914  
A2D14

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 21, 1947)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 21 -

**U.S. BARS GRAIN TO YUGOSLAVS; FINDS OTHERS IN GREATER NEED**-Washington - The United States has turned down on all counts Yugoslavia's requests for grain to relieve her food needs, the State Department announced today. Under the decision, Yugoslavia will get no relief from the \$350,000,000 appropriation bill now before Congress.

Neither will she be permitted to acquire grain here for several months, if then, either through United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration channels or by outright purchase. . . .

The State Department held that Yugoslavia either was in a position to take care of her own needs or, if this were not entirely the case, she did not stand as a country in "greatest need" and therefore must be passed over.

- - - - -

**BUMPER CROPS SEEN IN PLANTING PLANS**-Washington, (AP) - Another bumper crop production year, topped by what may be the largest wheat crop ever harvested, was forecast today by the Department of Agriculture. The forecast was in a report showing farmers plan to plant slightly larger acreages than during the last two seasons.

- - - - -

**LOSSES ON CROPS SHOWN; NEW BASIS FOR U. S. INSURANCE FIGURING URGED BY GEISSLER**-Washington, (AP) - Reporting that the Government has lost \$67,500,000 on crop insurance, Gus Geissler, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, recommended today that "we retreat to a more nearly experimental basis." He told the House Agriculture Committee the program should be continued, but that it should be determined how to get various crops on a basis where premiums will cover losses.

He suggested that Congress authorize the corporation to figure both premiums and loss payments in either the parity price or support price of covered commodities.

- - - - -

**PRICE INDEX DROPS WITH FOOD CHEAPER; FIVE-WEEK ADVANCE IS HALTED BY 0.3%** DECLINE FOR WEEK ENDED ON MARCH 15-Washington - After five weeks of steady advances, average primary market prices dropped 0.3 per cent because of lower prices for some foods during the week ended March 15, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. . . .

Substantial declines for pork and butter were primarily responsible for a decrease of 2.5 per cent in food prices during the week. On the average foods were 3.5 per cent higher than four weeks earlier and 52.1 per cent above a year ago.

- - - - -

(For other items from today's N.Y. Times, turn to page 2.)

Farm Digest 565-47

From New York Times, March 21 (Cont.) -

WHITE HOUSE CANCELS EGG-ROLLING, AS IN WAR, BECAUSE MANY STARVE-Washington - The continued cancellation of the traditional annual White House egg rolling on Easter Monday, which was not held during war times, was announced today by Mrs. James M. Helm, the White House social secretary.

Mrs. Helm said that with so much hunger in the world the White House would not foster "an orgy of wasted eggs."

- - - - -

MILK PRICE WILL STAY UP; SEASONAL DROP IN THIS AREA IS DELAYED A MONTH TO MAY 1-Washington - The Department of Agriculture said today that because of the recent increase in cattle-feeding costs April fluid milk prices for the New York milk shed would be held at the March level until May 1 instead of making the seasonal drop scheduled for April 1.

The order covering minimum producer prices applies also to the other large northeastern markets, Boston, Lowell, Lawrence and Fall River, Mass., so that unequal price relationships would not attract milk from one shed to the other.

These are the continuing prices: New York, 3.5 per cent butterfat, \$4.58 per c.w.t.; Boston, 3.7 per cent butterfat, \$4.77; Lowell-Lawrence, 3.7 per cent butterfat f.o.b. city \$5.21; Fall River, 3.7 butterfat, f.o.b. city \$5.52.

- - - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce - March 21 -

1946 COTTON CROP OVER EXPECTATIONS; CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS 8,513,489 BLS. GINNED IN CURRENT SEASON-Washington - The Census Bureau reported today that 8,513,489 running bales of cotton were produced during the current season in the United States, the shortest crop since 1921. The totals were about 200,000 running bales more than the trade had expected on the basis of the Dec. 1 forecast of 8,316,000 running bales.

- - - - -

SOUTH ALASKA'S VIRGIN TIMBERLANDS REWARD LONG SEARCH FOR NEWSPRINT-Washington - Timberlands of Southeast Alaska will soon be opened to a newsprint industry whose prospects for expanding production elsewhere on the continent are cramped by diminishing forests.

It is known that the Department of Agriculture intends to call for bids on Alaskan timber within a few weeks. Two large United States newsprint concerns, after surveying the site, have indicated their immediate intention to install mills in Alaska.

Names of the two concerns and the financial interests behind the prospective ventures will be announced shortly, when USDA's Forest Service advertises for bids on timber in the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska.

- - - - -

From New York Wall Street Journal, March 21 -

PRICE SUPPORT for farm crops won't be made permanent by this Congress. Present authority expires at the end of 1948. Five such programs now operate, but a price plunge could force the Government to put "floors" under 160-odd commodities. Uncle Sam already owns 22 million pounds of dried eggs, a half million turkeys.

- - - - -



From Lunchburg (Va.) News, Mar. 16 -

**A WISE START** - Editorial - Secretary Anderson, advocating "further corrective measures" to curb "speculative excesses" in the nation's commodity markets, said an investigation by the Agriculture Department's Commodity Exchange Authority of the spectacular cotton market collapse last October shows the need for additional controls.

Secretary Anderson has made only one specific recommendation and that deals with the cotton market. He has asked the Commodity Exchange Commission to limit speculative holdings of individual traders to 30,000 bales of cotton in all futures combined. Present regulations permit 30,000 bales in each future. The commission, which is composed of the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce and the Attorney General, is expected to approve this new limitation soon.

Secretary Anderson in making his recommendation concerning the cotton market has not acted hastily. He has awaited the findings of a board of experts. The News believes the Secretary is on the right track. He should direct his department's Commodity Exchange Authority to make studies in other commodity fields and submit the results for consideration.

Margin trading can become like a run-away steed quickly. Unless the reins are tightened a runaway horse can plunge over the precipice.

- - - - -

From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, Mar. 17 -

**15-CENT BREAK AND \$3 WHEAT** - Editorial - Throughout most of the country bread prices have just gone up a cent a loaf. The old nickel loaf of lamented memory thus recedes farther into history.

Dearer bread cuts a considerable hole in the food budget of large families with low incomes. They are the big bread eaters of the country.

The price is a direct reflection of wheat prices. Recently wheat has been selling for cash at \$2.75 a bushel in Chicago, up 63 cents since the first of the year, and almost a dollar in the last twelve months.

For farmers with wheat stored in bins or elevators or even under Government loans, this gain means almost unprecedented prosperity. Rarely have wheat prices been higher. In May, 1917, they touched \$3.01 a bushel at Kansas City, and in May, 1920, \$2.93. These prices contrasted with 42 cents in December, 1932, a figure that meant about 30 cents on the farm and caused some farmers to burn wheat rather than market it.

- - - - -

From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Mar. 14 -

**KEEP HOT LUNCH PLAN** - Editorial - The determination of Memphis and Shelby County school authorities to continue the "hot lunch program" for school children is reassuring.

Perhaps the responsibility for such a program rests on the local level instead of through Federal aid, but the important thing is that it will be continued. We long have been suspicious of Federal handouts, for usually they are accompanied by a "papa fix" bureaucrat who wants everything in sight. The school lunch assistance did not seem to be thus burdened, and it probably will mean a loss to children in communities where the school administrators are less sensitive to the pupil's dietary needs and less resolute in going about getting aid.

- - - - -

From Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald, Mar. 14 -

**THE SUGAR MUDDLE** - Editorial - Rep. Albert J. Engel of Muskegon, justifiably concerned for the fruit and vegetable growers of his district, whose products go to waste for lack of sugar for canning, calls attention to some glaring inequities in distribution.

The 40 per cent increase in the household sugar ration -- from 25 pounds to 35 pounds for each person -- looks generous, he points out, but it is like "giving a person a dime instead of a nickel when he needs 50 cents for a meal." He was talking about the increase that gives the home consumer an extra 10 pounds, but takes away the extra 10 pounds ration for home canning which was given in past years.

The family which puts up its own canned fruits gains nothing.

The family which buys commercially canned fruit gains 10 pounds a person.

Mr. Engel goes part way in approaching a solution when he proposes an extra 10-pound canning ration for bona fide farm residents. He will hear protests from many City residents on that score, for many a housewife prefers her own canned peaches and cherries and what not to the variety that comes from grocery shelves in tins.

- - - - -

From Grand Rapids Press, Mar. 18 -

**PONDER U. S. SPUD REPORT** - Will the federal report on March 1 potato holdings have the same effect upon the tuber deal as the Jan. 1 report had on the onion deal?

That question was pondered by members of the west Michigan potato trade attending Tuesday's quiet session of the city wholesale market.

Dealers and growers recalled how the union market put on a year-end spurt in price values and then abruptly turned bearish upon release of a federal report showing Jan. 1 holdings to be allegedly larger than stocks actually in storage. The union producers charged the government with making a "bum" guess.

Grand Rapids potato handlers hoped the same bearish development would not take place in the tuber deal. There was a feeling that federal statisticians may have been more careful in their latest estimate, after having been taken to task by the onion growers.

- - - - -

From Nashville Tennessean, Mar. 16 -

**ELOQUENT DOLLARS**- Editorial - In Robertson County there are fifty-four farm operators who bought their farms under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Purchase Act. During 1946 these tenant purchase borrowers made an average payment of \$1,000 on their loans.

Granted that conditions are very favorable for agricultural loan repayment, these are still eloquent dollars.

Because of its limited operation, the tenant purchase law has been no more than an experiment to determine if the evil of tenantry can be eliminated. Tested in a small way in most of the counties of the nation, the law has been a most successful experiment.

It has opened the way for a land program on a gigantic scale. Certain changes should of course be made in the bigger program. The test program has shown that the interest rate is too high and that the duration of the loan should be extended to counteract the effects of a depression.

- - - - -



1.914  
#2D14  
2062  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 13, 1947)

LIBRARY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 13 -

CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO END OPA-Washington-A bill to close out the office of Price Administration by June 30 cleared Congress today and only the signature of President Truman was necessary to schedule the end of the wartime rationing and price control agency.

Actually, the OPA may cease operations well before June 30, for more than \$14,000,000 finally provided for its liquidation will last at most through April. That sum is all that is available for operation between now and July 1 for paying off OPA's employes and closing its business.

- - - - -

'HYSTERIA' OVER PORK IS HIT AS PRICES FALL-Chicago-The American Meat Institute, trade organization of the meat packing industry, said today that "the myth of skyrocketing pork prices has exploded."

"When live hog prices sharply advanced a couple of weeks ago," the institute's statement said, "there were hysterical predictions, by people outside the meat business, that extremely high pork prices were on the way.

"However, by today, as compared with two weeks ago, pork loins, whence come chops, have dropped 6 to 10 cents per pound, depending on weights, in many parts of the country. And other cuts, such as hams, picnics, shoulders and Boston butts have declined moderately or remained about stationary.

"Consumer demand for the available supply of pork—which supply is limited right now—always determines pork prices."

- - - - -

HOOVER BARS RELIEF POST; REFUSAL IS UNCONDITIONAL--TALKS WITH TRUMAN IN WHITE HOUSE-Washington-Herbert Hoover said today that "under no possible circumstance" would he accept the job of administrator and coordinator of American relief abroad.

"At my time in life I have reached the stage of advice and consultation," he said, after conferring with President Truman. He said his talk with Mr. Truman had been confined to questions of the administration of relief. He said they had not discussed the particular problems of Greece and Turkey.

He said the overall estimate for direct relief amounted to \$1,250,000,000.

- - - - -

OUTLINES PROGRAM TO SPEED FREIGHT: TWYMAN SETS TURN AROUND TIME CUT TO 24 HOURS BY USE OF ELECTRIC TYPE TRUCKS-Immediate relief for the freight car shortage can be provided by reducing turn-around time at freight terminals through more systematic use of new automotive type electric trucks to speed up unloading operations, Elmer F. Twyman, general manager of the Automatic Transportation Company, Chicago, suggested here yesterday.

- - - - -

From New York Times, March 13 -

NEW MEXICAN STATUS DUE: U.S. WILL LEGALIZE THE ENTRY OF WORKERS IN SOUTH-WEST-Mexico City-United States Ambassador Walter Thurston and Foreign Secretary Jaime Torres Bodet exchanged notes this evening on a new plan whereby the 119,000 Mexican workers in the Southwest United States will receive a legal status.

Of the total 100,000 are in the United States illegally. The others have overstayed their contracts.

The new plan, which will be effective in thirty days, calls for the return of the entire group to the Mexican border. There they will receive new contract and immigration documents that will enable them to return to the jobs across the border with a legal status.

- - - -

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, March 13 -

SENATE GROUP APPROVES FARM LABOR IMPORTS-Washington-Legislation to extend the farm labor program for six months beyond June 30 was approved today by an 8-3 vote of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The bill already has passed the House.

The Senate committee added a 30 day liquidation period which would wind up the program Jan. 30, 1948 instead of Dec. 31, 1947.

- - - -

JAVANESE SUGAR EXPORTS SEEN DELAYED TILL 1949-Batavia-Sugar exports from Java cannot be expected for a long time, according to the current issue of the Economic Review of Indonesia, published by the Netherlands Indies Government Department of Economic Affairs.

The article stated that "The optimistic reports constantly launched abroad about the likelihood of very considerable sugar exports from Java as soon as the political difficulties shall have been overcome have little or no foundation, at any rate, where the visible supplies are concerned."

Existing supplies of sugar, some 1,590,000 tons, must be used entirely for local consumption until 1949, when the next sizeable harvest can be expected, the report added.

- - - -

PRICE AND QUALITY SQUEEZE SEEN ENDING IN LUMBER BY MIDYEAR-Backed by Government and industry forecasts of adequate supplies for 1947, lumber consumers are looking forward to a rapid solution of the quality and price difficulties carried over from last year.

While the lumber market is still marked by large quality and price differentials among sellers, all trade levels expect a decisive turn sometime around the middle of the year. And that anticipated turn in the market envisages lower prices and higher quality standards.

- - - -



From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Mar. 7 -

**LOWER PRICES AHEAD, FARM FORUM WARMS** - Bullish factors that have pushed present farm prices to record high levels were heavily discounted in the long range outlook for agriculture at the first annual Northwest Farm forum Thursday.

In preparation for the day when world food conditions regain some semblance of normalcy, speakers yesterday proposed:

Removing conflicts between foreign policy and domestic agricultural policy.

Correcting maladjustments between farm volume of production, price and cost.

Adjusting the parity price formula on farm products to eliminate present functional barriers.

- - - - -

From Flint (Mich.) Journal, Mar. 3 -

**PIECE FEARED IN FARM LABOR; HIRERS OF MIGRANTS WARNED OF DANGER** - Michigan employers of migrant farm labor have been advised they may have to recruit their own help after June 30 if Congress fails to continue the emergency farm labor program.

A. B. Love, State supervisor of the Program, has advised farmers to strengthen their labor organizations just in case Congress decides to suspend the recruitment program along with other wartime emergency projects.

Love estimates sugar beet growers, pickle and truck crop farmers, fruit producers and canning crop growers normally require the services of 25,000 to 30,000 seasonal workers from outside State.

Mechanization of the sugar beet industry promises to lessen greatly the labor requirements of sugar producers this season, but the worker needs of other farmers are expected to continue as great as in the past.

- - - - -

From Erie (Penn.) Dispatch-Herald, Mar. 4 -

**LET'S FIGHT THIS SCOURGE RIGHT NOW** - Editorial - The most feared of all animals maladies, foot-and-mouth disease, has spread in less than 60 days through 10 states in the Republic of Mexico, infesting an estimated 700,000 head of cattle, with more than 6,000,000 animals exposed.

An infestation in the United States could practically wipe out the cattle, goat, sheep and hog-raising industries in this country and Canada.

Like a forest fire this great health menace is sweeping northward and unless there is quick and drastic action on the part of the United States government the virus will soon be taking its terrible toll and we, a nation of 150,000,000 people, will face a meat famine.

Congress was asked by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson to appropriate sufficient sums with which to combat this dire threat to the health and economy of the people of the United States. In self-defense, it was imperative that our government act quickly and effectively to take the necessary steps in cooperation with the Mexican government.

It is a lot cheaper to do this now than to wait until the malady has crossed the border and started to ravage the great cattle raising areas of Texas and Oklahoma.

- - - - -

From Ogden (Utah) Standard-Examiner, Mar. 2 -

**QUARANTINE OFTEN FAILS** - Editorial - Foes of isolationism probably will draw parallels aplenty from the congressional action authorizing the United States government to move into Mexico to help that country wipe out an epidemic of foot and mouth disease. The action was taken because American livestock men said that even though the malady now is confined to within the borders of another nation the presence of that disease in Mexico is a continuous threat to the herds in this country.

Congressional debate on the hoof and mouth bill emphasized the economic aspects of the situation. It would "pay" the United States to help Mexico wipe out the disease. The suggestion that to do so was a part of the good neighbor policy didn't get much attention. Emphasis was placed on the condition that Mexico lacked the funds and the willingness to take the drastic steps required for disease elimination. Nothing less than destruction of all affiliated or exposed animals seems to wipe out the malady.

From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press, Mar. 8 -

**WHAT IS RECESSION?** - Editorial - The Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicts a business recession in the United States late in 1947 with a general drop in farm prices and purchasing power.

The gloomy forecast is based on the belief that "industrial activity may reach a record level in the first half of the year and then decline from 5 to 10 per cent in the last half."

On this basis, there may be some disagreement as to just what constitutes recession. If the worst we can expect is a not-too-serious leveling off from a record peak, it may only be an adjustment of inflationary tendencies. And instead of recession, that may be a healthy thing for the Nation's economy.

From Grand Junction (Colorado) Sentinel, Mar. 3 -

**REPORTS ARE CHEERING** - Editorial - Reports on the income from FHA farms in the Loma district show commendable efforts on the part of the farmers who purchased the farms on government loans in that district. While the \$5,556 gross income is not exactly in the "higher brackets," it certainly should compare favorably with farm incomes over the nation. The fact that six of the families were able in 1946 to pay off their entire loans (which were contracted to be paid off in 40 years!) more than justifies the government's faith in these farmers, and the fact that most of them have made payments several years ahead not only further justifies that faith but graphically deflates the arguments of the calamity howlers, who were convinced a short time ago that these "receivors of charity" would "live off the government for the rest of their lives." Not only have they paid their way, but they are contributing much to this ever-growing farm area.

From Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune, Mar. 2 -

**HOLDING THE PRICE LINE** - Editorial - Meat prices have been rising recently and there have been predictions of even still higher rises, particularly for pork during the next few months. We are entering the normally slackest season for marketing and it is possible the packers are encouraging the advances, while at the same time, discouraging particularly heavy marketing by predicting still higher prices. We suspect any continuing upward trend will meet extensive consumer resistance.



1.914

72D14

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 17, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 17 -

**25-YEAR PLAN ASKED FOR GREECE BY FAO-Washington**-A pertinent report on the economic crisis in Greece, setting forth a twenty five year plan for her recovery was made public today by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The report calls for: An initial loan of \$100,000,000 by the World Bank for the present fiscal year. A special United Nations Advisory Council for internal assistance. Vast reconstruction and industrial development projects. A stern domestic policy toward economy, inflation, taxes and other problems of ailing nations. Vigorous efforts by the Greeks themselves to regain a favorable position in world trade.

- - - -

**COSTS FOR FARMERS EXPECTED TO RISE-Washington**-Farmers can expect costs to take a larger share of their income this year, the Department of Agriculture said tonight:

"Long-term debts incurred when costs and incomes are high will become burdensome as prices and gross income fall off," the agency said.

Farm wage rates will continue at 1946 record levels for some time, the department forecast, but probably will taper off later this year. The supply of farm workers increased in 1946 over 1945 and a further increase is expected this year.

- - - -

**VAST INCREASE DUE IN LEATHER SUPPLY: RECORD OUTPUT OF HIDES AND CALF SKINS ON WAY TO TRADE SINCE MEAT DECONTROL-Chicago**-A big increase in production of shoes and other leather goods in the next few months were predicted by stockyard sources today because of the large number of cattle and calves slaughtered since the meat industry was decontrolled last October.

Production of hides and calf skins has set new records and output is expected to continue high throughout the year. The biggest portion of the hides has not yet reached the shoe manufacturers, it was said.

- - - -

**SAYS HIGH TARIFFS PERIL OUR SYSTEM: FOREIGN POLICY GROUP URGES FREER TRADE-Washington**-The Foreign Policy Association said tonight, in support of the State Department's world trade proposals, that the United States would lose its free enterprise system if it followed an "economic nationalism" policy of high tariffs.

A report prepared by Harold H. Hutcheson of the association's research staff said tariffs must be scaled down with capital, labor and management shifted to production which did not need the protection of high tariffs. It suggested that subsidies be paid persons adversely affected by the change.

- - - -

From New York Times, March 17 -

(The New York Times of today carries a three column cut on Page 11 showing a mountain of potatoes dumped at Fort Fairfield, Maine. The caption reads: A Potato Mountain Rises in Maine. The Outlines read: At Fort Fairfield, in the heart of the potato farming region, workers are dwarfed as they add to the thousands of bushels of the surplus vegetable dumped in a huge mound.)

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 17 -

U.S. MUST DECIDE ON SIGNING WORLD GRAIN PACT--OR BUCKING IT--Washington--The United States is faced this week with a choice between joining a vigorous world wheat cartel or bucking it.

If it chooses opposition, it must recognize the possibility of losing export markets for American grain.

The setting for this momentous decision will be a conference room in London. Delegates from the United States and more than a dozen other nations will file in tomorrow. The precise issue: Whether America shall join in an international agreement giving the International Wheat Council continuing power to fix the prices and quantities of wheat moving in world commerce.

- - - -

From The Journal of Commerce, N.Y., March 17 -

THOMAS PROTESTS MOVE TO RAISE GRAIN MARGINS--Washington--Senator Elmer Thomas (Dem. Okla) over the weekend protested that the Agriculture Department "was trying to beat down farm prices" by recommending an increase in margin requirement for speculative trading in grains.

The department's Commodity Exchange Administration Friday asked grain exchanges in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Kansas City to require margins of at least 24 percent of market value on speculative grain transactions.

- - - -

PRICE PACE SETTERS DUE TO SLIP IN FALL, US SAYS--Washington--Commerce Department officials expect price drops by next fall on the products which have soared highest in the post OPA rise--like cotton goods and food.

The forecast is made in a cautious report on commodity prices, soon to be published. On the basis of the official report, commerce department economists gave these unofficial conclusions over the weekend in interviews:

1. The downtrend will be mild, now approaching the depth of a true "recession."
2. It will start around midyear with drops in a few lines, then gain speed as more items come into a balance with demand.
3. It will be uneven. Some prices may still be rising while those farthest out of line come down.

The study lists these items as priced "far in excess" of their usual place in the wholesale price structure and therefore highly likely to decline:

Food, cotton goods, shoes, lumber, paint, drugs, leather, fats and oils.

- - - -



From New York Journal of Commerce, Mar. 14 -

BETTER QUARANTINE SET IN GEORGIA COTTON AREA - Atlanta - The white-fringed beetle quarantine and regulations were revised to place the State of Georgia under quarantine, effective March 15, because of the finding of infestation of such beetles in the State last spring and summer.

In the grub stage, this wingless insect pest was reported to have destroyed large acreages in both cotton and corn.

Parts of 23 counties in Georgia were designated as regulated areas. Minor additions to the regulated areas in Alabama and Mississippi were also made by the revision.

- - - - -

HERALD TRIBUNE RUNNING SERIES OF ARTICLES ON BALANCED FARMING AND INDUSTRY -- A New York Herald Tribune reporter is surveying the work of the T.V.A., and writing a series of articles on the balance of industry and agriculture within its territory. These articles, larded with many stories of successful farming in former sub-marginal territory, are continuing in this newspaper from day to day.

- - - - -

NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE GETS OUT SPECIAL ISSUE ON FROZEN FOOD CONVENTION -- A Frozen Food Convention issue of 16 pages, treating with all phases of this industry was issued March 14, 1947, by the New York Journal of Commerce with its regular edition of that date. All segments of the frozen food industry will converge on San Francisco next Wednesday for the Frozen Food Industry Convention and Exposition which opens that day. Programs for various phases of the Convention are outlined. Many of the speakers are listed. This Convention issue is on file in Room 414A, and available to anyone desiring to see it.

- - - - -

From Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Mar. 10 -

TOBACCO TREATIES URGED - The raw tobacco industry in the United States has asked the State Department to negotiate new trade treaties with foreign countries to eliminate completely or modify all discriminatory tariffs and quantitative restrictions on imports from this country.

At a recent hearing in Washington, J. Con Lanier of Greenville presented the case for the flue-cured section of the tobacco industry, joining forces with representatives of the burley section in asking for action benefiting "the whole American tobacco industry" in the way of treaties.

Lanier said production of flue-cured burley, and light air-cured tobacco in 1946 was 869,000,000 pounds in excess of domestic consumption, and argued that absence of discriminatory trade practices would give superior quality of American tobacco a comparative advantage in the export market. He claimed, however, that world trade statistics for 15 years or more "show conclusively that, through discriminatory trade policies, United States tobaccos have lost ground and those of foreign countries have gained."

- - - - -

From Oklahoma City, Oklahoman, Mar. 7 -

**CATTLEMEN WARNED NOT TO PUSH PRICE LUCK** - Cattlemen who are holding on to their livestock in hope of still higher prices Thursday were warned to sell or face a boycott by consumers that will force a collapse of the market.

H. H. Mundy, president of the joint livestock committee, said that the supply of cattle for 1947 will be well over the normal demand. Present prices are maintained, he said, by cattlemen refusing to market their stock.

"People won't continue to buy meat at these high prices," said Mundy. "We have already reached the limit in price raises. If it goes any higher it will collapse."

He suggested cattlemen first market their old, non-thrifty animals and keep only the young.

- - - - -

From Phoenix Arizona Republic, Mar. 6 -

**AIDING OUR NEIGHBORS** - Editorial - The good neighbor policy is being put to a new constructive use. Our government has wisely decided to assist the Mexican government in eradicating the foot and mouth disease which is prevalent below the border. President Truman has just signed a measure authorizing the secretary of agriculture to lend a helping hand to our Mexican neighbors in their effort to control this epizootic plague.

As President Truman said in signing the aid measure, it marks a new forward step in Western Hemisphere co-operation. Heretofore we have not engaged in this type of aid. Mexican authorities have been unsuccessfully striving to control the foot and mouth disease for many months. With our help it can now be bested.

We are, perhaps, a bit selfish in lending a hand. We do not want the disease to cross the border if we can help it. Were western range cattle to become afflicted, eradication would be very difficult and costly. It is to our interest as well as to the interest of our Mexican neighbors that we assist in stamping out the disease.

- - - - -

From Cheyenne Wyoming State Tribune, Mar. 9 -

**PRICES** - Editorial - The federal bureau of agricultural economics, a dispatch from Washington reported yesterday, predicted that business activity will fall off five to 10 per cent in the last half of 1947 unless there is a quick drop in the cost of living.

Such a setback, reported the bureau, would lead to a reduction of eight to 12 per cent in income payments to individuals in the second six months of the year, force wholesale food prices down 15 to 20 per cent, and reduced possibly 20 to 25 per cent the amount farmers expect to get for their crops next fall.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the bureau of agricultural economics, the bureau of labor statistics reported that wholesale prices rose one and one half per cent during the week ended March 1st, to the highest level in 17 years.

They are still going up.

Contemplating the two bureau's statements, "where do we go from here?"

- - - - -



1947  
71271  
1947  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 19, 1947)

LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAR 21 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 411A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 19 -

WHEAT PLUMMENTS 18½ CENTS IN DAY: OPENS AT \$3.05, UP 8½ CENTS, A 30-YEAR HIGH, BUT REACTS LIMIT WHEN LONGS UNLOAD-Chicago-Wheat and corn futures broke badly today on the Chicago Board of Trade after a higher opening. March wheat was up 8½ cents a bushel at the start to \$3.05, a new high since May 9, 1917. But the market turned reactionary later, the price breaking 18½ cents from the top with the finish at \$2.86½, off 10 cents, the permissible limit, from Monday's closing level. May and July wheat also closed at the bottom, off 10 cents and September was 93/4 to 10 cents lower. Corn futures finished 73/4 to 8 cents lower, the latter the limit for one day's operation. Oats lost 4½ to 5 5/8 cents and barley was unchanged to 2 cents lower.

HIGH MEAT PRICES SCORED BY WILSON: SAYS PUBLIC IS BACKING OFF-Chicago-Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of Wilson & Co., meat packers, said today "that the American people are backing off from high prices."

At an annual stockholders' meeting Mr. Wilson said "that prices are too high--\$30 cattle is too high priced."

"The country would be better off if the prices of livestock went down," he added.

HARVESTER ISSUES LIST OF PRICE CUTS: \$20,000,000 TOTAL COVERS 163 MODELS OF TRACTORS, FARM MACHINES AND TRUCKS-Chicago-International Harvester Company, in accordance with its announced program of reducing prices by approximately \$20,000,000 a year, made public today specific price reductions in 163 basic models of tractors, farm machines, industrial power equipment and motor trucks.

The price reductions, made effective as of March 10 in the United States covered twelve farm tractor models, 123 farm machines, sixteen models of industrial tractors and engines, and twelve models of motor trucks.

Reductions on individual items ranged from \$2.50 to \$300 and from 1 percent to 23.8 percent. Prices were not reduced on all Harvester products.

FIRST 'DAILY DIGEST' ISSUED BY CONGRESS-Washington-The "Daily Digest," an official summary of Congressional action, made its debut today as a twenty eight page appendix to the Congressional Record.

The Digest, required by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, is designed to sum up the daily activities of both houses and their committees in five minutes of reading time. The first edition also summarizes principal actions of Congress since the beginning of the current session. Hereafter it will appear daily as a part of the Congressional Record and is expected to be made available separately by subscription for ready reference in looseleaf form. The Digest lists the bills introduced and reported by committees as well as action taken on any measures by either chamber. It contains a list of committee and subcommittee meetings and the subjects with which they dealt and a list of such meetings scheduled for the following day.

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 19 -

CEA BILL TO ASK COMMODITY MARGIN POWER: ANDERSON HELD LIKELY TO URGE CONGRESS ACT SPEEDILY ON MEASURE-Washington- Legislation which would give the Commodity Exchange Authority specific power to establish margin requirements for trading in regulated futures markets is now being prepared at CEA, it was learned today.

Such proposed legislation may be sent to the Congress in the next two weeks, along with a request from Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson for early action.

While the proposed legislation is directed primarily toward granting CEA authority to name margin levels, some other changes in CEA's regulatory powers may also be considered in the event that Congress shows a disposition to go along with the margin request, it was indicated.

Dissatisfaction with the operation of the cotton futures markets last October, when the market broke sharply, together with dissatisfaction concerning the failure of the Chicago Board of Trade to accede completely to CEA's request of last week for a 25 percent margin on all new speculative contracts for wheat, are the prime reasons why CEA thinks that now is the time to ask for legislation.

- - - - -

U.S. SUGAR SUPPLY SEEN NORMAL IN '48; PER CAPITA STOCK UP 17 POUNDS THIS YEAR, FORUM SPEAKER STATES-Each person in the United States will find 17 more pounds of sugar available this year than last and probably will be back to his prewar supply by 1948, according to speakers last night on the weekly business forum, conducted by the Commerce and Industry Association over Station WMCA.

Participating in the program were John C. Gardner, president of the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange; Milton L. Huber, director of research and statistics for B. W. Dyer and Co., and Earl T. MacHardy, assistant vice president for Refined Syrups and Sugars, Inc., in Yonkers.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 19 -

REA PASSES \$1 BILLION MARK IN LOAN PROGRAM TO ELECTRIFY RURAL U.S.-Washington-The nation's farms last night figuratively lighted up in a federally sponsored billion dollar blaze of glory.

The occasion: Yesterday the Rural Electrification Administration passed the billion dollar mark in its lending program to electrify rural America.

- - - - -

DELEGATES FROM 40 NATIONS BEGIN PARLEY ON WORLD WHEAT SITUATION-London-Delegates of 40 nations sat down to confer about wheat amid predictions that the conference is likely to produce "tough sledding" and wrangling.

Adding the conference British Food Minister John Strachey said, "one of the facts which we have to deal with is that few, if any, governments today are willing to allow their agriculture to be at the mercy of the unregulated forces of supply and demand in an uncontrolled world market."

- - - - -



From Chicago News, Mar. 11 -

**FREIGHT CAR CRISIS PERILS FOOD SUPPLY** - Michigan City; Ind. - American railways are short 1,000,000 freight cars.

U. S. industry is being slowed down at loading docks everywhere while shippers whistle in vain for rail equipment.

Wheat and corn are wasting away in weevil and rat-infested country elevators and farm granaries when it might be moving to terminals and ocean liner bound for the world's hungry millions.

Railroads are handicapped by having in service only 1,740,000 cars, 560,000 fewer than they owned in the late '20s. And one third of this reduced number are over age, 25 or more years old.

- - - - -

From Wilkes Barre (Pa.) Times-Leader News, Mar. 12 -

**HIGHER BREAD PRICES** - Editorial - Bread may be the staff of life, but the public will not lean on it too heavily if prices get out of hand.

Bread will hardly be eliminated from the daily diet of Americans, under any circumstances, but consumption can be, and perhaps will be, radically curtailed. Consumers have shown they can manage on substitutes or on surprisingly little of any product. In the end, those, dependent upon wheat for a livelihood, may find they have priced themselves out of a large portion of their business.

Not even bread is indispensable. In fact, many individuals, inclined to overweight, shied away from it when it was plentiful and cheap.

- - - - -

From Fargo (N.D.) Forum, Mar. 12 -

**WOULD CONTROL MARKETING NOT FARM OUTPUT** - Regulation of farm marketing rather than farm production to keep farm prices at an adequate level -- without the use of federal government subsidies -- was advocated last night by DeLos James, manager of the agricultural department of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

James, who spoke here at a meeting arranged by the Greater North Dakota association, said such un-subsidized regulation might be directed by a bi-partisan board.

He emphasized his personal view that plans based on acreage adjustments are not effective in controlling the amounts of commodities reaching market. He suggested instead that, after demand has been estimated in advance, farm producers be given marketing quotas which would prevent over-supply and resultant low prices.

- - - - -

From Lewiston (Me.) Sun, Mar. 13 -

**CROP INSURANCE** - Editorial - The disclosure by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson that the Federal crop insurance program lost 120 million in cotton last year is being interpreted to mean that Congress is likely to drop insurance loans to farmers in the next budget.

Crop insurance has suffered setbacks before, and losses became so heavy in 1943 that Congress refused to vote its continuance. It is a New Deal expedient that looks fine in theory, but this latest evidence of its unworkability should convince Congress it ought to be discontinued.

- - - - -

From Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Mar. 13 -

AND NOW IT'S BREAD -Editorial - In an economy such as ours where dollars are spent far more freely than dimes used to be, the lowly penny has lost much of its former significance except in making sales-tax change or in purchasing postage stamps for uncovered correspondence. Yet even a penny still means something very concrete and unpleasant when it represents a rise of approximately ten per cent in the cost of so common a necessity as a loaf of bread.

This time last year The Advertiser was pleading with Congress to hold the price line for the sake of people on fixed income. We pointed out time after time that if basic living costs were permitted to soar, the average family would suffer and still greater industrial strife would be inevitable. But the Republicans, and some of the Democrats who ought to be under the Republican label, crippled OPA and finally have killed it.

Now even the big financial "experts" who screamed for an end to all controls are taking to cover. They see inevitable strikes ahead by people who never would have struck if living costs had been held in line.

- - - -

From Hartford (Conn.) Times, Mar. 12 -

FREE MARKET URGED FOR AGRICULTURE - The best program for the continued prosperity of agriculture is one that allows a free market and a free price, with limited subsidy and limited government control, Dr. Roger B. Corbett, secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation, declared at the Connecticut Milk Producers Association Tuesday night.

"I would like to see the agricultural people in Connecticut act now while there is time to think clearly," he said in urging agricultural leaders to formulate their own national farm program to fill the gap which expiration of the Steagall amendment next year will leave.

Dr. Corbett proposed that the agricultural problems could be solved by a monetary or fiscal policy of which a small commission would control money, credit, interest rates and taxes. "There is no agreement on this plan yet," he explained, "and politically, it has its weak points,"

- - - -

From Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer, Mar. 14 -

THE OLIO ISSUE - Editorial - The State Legislature has just about run out of excuses for keeping on the statute books a prohibition against the sale of yellow oleomargarine.

At the insistence of Ohio dairy interests the Legislature has kept in force a law requiring that oleomargarine sold in Ohio must be white in color when it crosses the grocer's counter to the housewife, who goes home and spends time giving it a butter yellow complexion.

The Legislature ought to pass the bill by Senators Margaret A. Mahoney of Cleveland and Fred G. Reiners of Cincinnati to permit the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine that isn't bleached white. There is no more excuse for the Legislature not doing so than there is for it to pass a bill requiring that only white orangeade be obtainable in Ohio.

- - - -



482  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 12, 1947)

LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIALS

MAR 17 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 114A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 12 -

85 TO BE IN U.S. DELEGATION AT GENEVA TRADE CONFERENCE—Washington—William L. Clayton, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, will head a delegation of eighty five officials from nine departments and agencies representing the United States at the dual conference on postwar trade starting at Geneva April 10, the State Department announced today.

The conference, known formally as the second meeting at Geneva of the United Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Trade and Employment, is planned as the major effort in reestablishing postwar commerce between the United Nations.

The American delegation will operate in two fields. It will aim to negotiate reciprocal trade treaties with the other nations expected at the conference. In separate negotiations, the delegates also will attempt to perfect in acceptable form, for submission back to the United Nations governments, a charter for an International Trade Organization to facilitate trade and prevent unfair competition.

- - - - -

U.S. DISCONTINUES COTTON PAYMENTS: LOSS CLAIM FUNDS EXHAUSTED ANDERSON SAYS—ORDERS NATIONAL INVESTIGATION—Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson today announced discontinuance of payments on 1946 cotton crop loss claims and an investigation of these losses. The reason reported was that funds available under this part of the general crop insurance program have been exhausted due to loss claims "far beyond any preliminary estimate."

The Secretary's statement said that "more than half" the 1946 cotton claims have been paid. The word to the unpaid was that even though further payments have been discontinued, field offices of the Crop Insurance Corporation "will continue to adjust, accept and process additional claims."

Premiums earned for 1946 crop cotton insurance covered about 42,000,000 pounds, while total loss claims are estimated at three or four times this amount, the Department of Agriculture said.

- - - - -

AMBASSADOR INSISTS YUGOSLAVS NEED FOOD—Washington—Sava N. Kosanovitch, the Yugoslav Ambassador, declared in a statement today that his country was in need of food and that he had expressed grave concern over the situation in a memorandum to Dean Acheson, Under Secretary of State, on Feb. 13.

The statement was prompted by the disclosure of the State Department yesterday that the American Embassy in Belgrade had reported that "the Yugoslav Government had repeatedly and publicly stated that its supplies of food are adequate to meet essential needs until the next harvest."

- - - - -

From New York Times, March 12 -

SCIENCE O.K.'s HAM'N' EGGS-That pleasing gastronomic combination, ham and eggs, has been examined in the test tubes of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, and has come out with flying colors.

On the basis of its research the agency explains that the particular kind of protein contained in eggs supplements that in ham, and so well that the two foods are more nourishing when eaten together than when consumed separately.

Similarly, previous experiments indicated that a ham sandwich is a natural nutritionally speaking, because here, too, the individual proteins furnished by the two foods, the meat and the bread, efficiently enhance one another.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 12 -

LIVESTOCK-Eastern consumer resistance to high pork prices reduced sales values from 50 cents to \$1 a hundred pounds at Chicago yesterday.

- - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce, March 12 -

WHEAT PARLEY WILL TEST COMMODITY PACT POLICY-Washington-The willingness of the United States to enter into world commodity pacts will be subjected to its first major test this month.

In the face of the fact that world commodity agreements have failed to find general acceptance--except for indorsement of the principle--American negotiators will meet on March 17 with representatives of other countries in an effort to arrive at an agreement on world trading in wheat.

The fact that wheat prices are now soaring makes the present a particularly good time, from one point of view, to seek an agreement. Importing countries feel that, if they can get some concessions in prices over the next year or so, they may find it worth while to accept minimum prices which they will have to pay later and to agree on quantities of wheat which they will store during times of surplus.

- - - -

OKLAHOMA ACREAGE SEEN UP 10 PER CENT-Oklahoma City-Prospects for Oklahoma cotton acreage indicated a general increase of about 10 percent over plantings in 1946. The increase, however, was expected to vary in different sections of the State. Some areas were not expected to show any increase while others will bring the general average increase to the estimated 10 percent.

The excessively dry condition of both top and subsoil was reported to have delayed plowing for the 1947 crop. A continuation of unfavorable weather, it was believed, may have an adverse effect on farmers' intentions to increase cotton acreage.

- - - -



From Spartanburg Herald, March 5 -

**SOUTH CAROLINA SEEN HOLDING TOP PEACH POSITION** - South Carolina can hold her 1946-gained position as the nation's No. 1 fresh peach producing state, provided all growers cooperate.

Meeting in Spartanburg, center of the Palmetto State's peach industry, producers heard several authorities, including Dr. J. C. Dunegan, pathologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture Experiment Station, Beltsville, Md.; Dr. Oliver I. Snapp of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Fort Valley, Ga., and Entomologist W. C. Nettles and Horticulturist Roy J. Ferree of Clemson College.

Yesterday emphasis was upon this "challenging" assertion: "Clean up all the state's orchards, eliminate all its peach-destroying pests and keep the pack standards high -- or the industry will perish.

South Carolina growers "can continue producing the most and the finest fresh peaches grown in the nation if they will keep their orchards free of pests and maintain high quality pack standards," Mr. Nettles said.

- - - - -

From Birmingham (Ala) Age-Herald, Mar. 5 -

**\$2.62 WHEAT** - Editorial - Wheat hit \$2.62 a bushel in Chicago Saturday! Washington intimates that speculation in grain futures has shot the price up. Some brokers answer that government buying is responsible for the rise.

The wheat crop last year was well above 1,100 million bushels. Domestic needs are about 650 million. The government is planning to buy somewhere near 400 million bushels for export relief. Besides, moisture conditions for this year's crop, particularly in the Southwest, are excellent. So there should be enough wheat in this country to meet all demands.

The railroads' boxcar shortage is the cause of much of the grain squeeze. Rolling stock is in a more desperate situation than during the war.

But there is a great responsibility upon private business in this price boom. It asked and got freedom from price control. The government does not buy grain to turn a profit. There is no excuse for the pinching of American consumers and the starving abroad by a "shortage" that isn't here.

- - - - -

From Minneapolis (Minn) Tribune, Mar. 3 -

**BOXCAR BOONDOGGLE** - Editorial - March wheat hit new 27-year highs twice last week, closing at \$2.60 a bushel, as the scramble was on to get delivery on contracts.

The key to the soaring market was the shortage of boxcars. Cars just are not available in this area to move the grain to market. This situation has been getting worse every day. More elevators were "plugged" with grain in this area last week than in many weeks previous.

The three northern railroads which handle quantities of the grain movement, reported they had less than 60 per cent of the cars they own on their tracks. The railroads are pressed not only by the demand for wheat but also by the urgency of the corn situation. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of corn are in danger of being lost completely because approaching warmer weather is molding the crop in storage. Where are the boxcars? East of Chicago for the most part. Heavy shipments to the east have drained the midwest of its car supply and eastern railroads are holding their cars for their own use.

- - - - -

From Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Mar. 1 -

HELP FOR FARMERS - Editorial - Congressman Clifford Hope of Kansas, new chairman of the house agriculture committee, long has advocated a narrower spread between what the farmer gets for his products and what the consumer pays.

His activity in his influential post thus will warrant particular attention by California vineyard, orchard and truck crop interests.

Confronted by the cost of the long haul to the major Eastern and Mid-western market centers, the California growers often are blamed for out of line price quotations beyond their control.

And there is little promise, other than through congressional action, that they will not be the target of more undeserved criticism. The removal of ceilings will be a 1947 factor, as will the recently increased railway freight rates.

Current reports, however, say Hope has a stabilization plan based upon his own findings and information supplied by farm organizations.

A legislative program he will propose is undisclosed as yet but will be reviewed by the agriculture committee in April.

It is interesting to note in this connection that Hope lays considerable of the price spread to what he terms waste and inefficiency in transportation.

- - - - -

From Shreveport (La.) Times, Mar. 3 -

TIMBER WEALTH - Editorial - Up to recently, East Texans had no exact figures on the value of the annual crop of lumber and other wood products in that region. Estimates ranged as low as \$50,000,000.

But a survey conducted by the East Texas Chamber of Commerce industrial department revealed that in 1946 the value of the crop was \$135,000,000. It disclosed, further, that of 10,090,000 acres of privately owned timber land in the area, 56 per cent is in small ownerships of 3,000 acres or less belonging to 53,618 farmers and other small owners.

The figures point to the greatness of timber as a resource in all this Southwest region. Its value, widely dispersed as to ownership, will increase in coming years as the demand for timber grows.

- - - - -

From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, Mar. 7 -

HELP FOR FARMERS - Editorial - A continued shortage of farm labor has led the House of Representatives to continue the program of granting temporary permits for bringing field workers from Mexico and the West Indies. Last summer about 80,000 such laborers came to the United States and were an invaluable help in harvesting and picking. They do not displace American labor, for there are too few native Americans who are looking for that kind of work.

Farm machinery, now in greater supply, is helping to make possible larger crops with fewer hands in the field.

Conditions abroad indicate that again this year the world will need all the American farmers can produce. The potato surplus is an exception which should not mislead Americans to think the world's food crisis is not acute.

- - - - -



1.944  
A2D14  
Copy 2  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 27, 1947).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From Wall Street Journal, March 27 -

PRICE PROBLEM: SURVEY SHOWS LITTLE HOPE FOR WIDE CUTS WASHINGTON WANTS-Washington is primed for immediate price slashing; most of industry is not.

A concerted campaign is on in the Capital to squelch what are deemed renewed threats of an inflationary flare-up. Business leaders have been in to hear the Government's arguments--to see an accusing finger pointed especially at the prices of steel, textiles and paper. Yesterday the keep-prices-down program blossomed at highest levels.

President Truman commended International Harvester and Ford for their recent price cuts. He indicated the wish that other industries and business would follow suit. Secretary of Treasury Snyder, a few moments later, went one step further. He said he has been given indications other price reductions in basic industries are being seriously considered.

A coast-to-coast survey of a wide variety of "basic" and other industries by The Wall Street Journal yesterday failed to give much comfort to hopes of a wave of voluntary price slashing.

- - - -

CORN REFINERS RAISE PRICES OF PRODUCTS-Leading corn refiners have advanced prices 18 to 30 cents a hundred pounds on several products in line with the higher prices for cash corn.

Corn Products Refining Co., and Fenick & Ford Ltd., have posted the following increases on hundred pound quantities; Corn syrup, unmixed, 25 cents; corn sugar, 25 cents; starches, bagged and barreled, 30 cents; dextrine and gums, 30 cents.

In addition Corn Products has advanced dextrose 18 cents a hundred pounds.

- - - -

MEN'S SUITS get lighter. The average winter garment was made of wool fabric weighing 18 ounces a yard 10 years ago, says Hart, Schaffner & Marx. Present average weight: 14 ounces a yard. Improved heating of homes, offices and even autos is the reason for the lighter suiting, says the clothing firm.

- - - -

POTATO EXPORTS-Washington-Exports of surplus 1946 crop potatoes may exceed 17 million bushels, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Through mid March approximately 3 million bushels had been shipped the announcement said. Contracts calling for shipment of 6 million bushels more have been completed and negotiations are in process for the movement of another 2 million bushels. In addition to these quantities, the Agriculture Department is buying 6.5 million bushels of top grade potatoes in Maine and North Central States for sale to the Army.

- - - -

From New York Herald Tribune, March 27 -

TEAMSTERS BACK MILK STRIKERS IN LOUISIANA; A.F.L. TRUCK BOYCOTT TODAY TO HELP DAIRY FARMERS STOP NEW ORLEANS SUPPLY-Amite, La.- A teamsters' boycott was ordered tonight, backing up a dairy farmers' strike to stop the flow of milk into New Orleans.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, declared the boycott effective tomorrow on all service to stores handling milk from dairies affected by the strike. One official said the boycott would extend to ships in port at New Orleans.

Striking farmers prepared for intensified efforts to halt milk trucks and trains, although state police patrolled highways with orders to keep the roads open.

The principal issue in the two day old strike, in which armed men have dumped thousands of gallons of milk, is a price cut by New Orleans dairies. The dairies, which had been paying farmers \$5.75 for 100 pounds of milk of 4 percent butterfat, reduced the rate to \$5.20.

- - - -

ARGENTINA BARS CEILING WHEAT-London-An informed source said Argentina told the International Wheat Conference today she will not accept a ceiling price on her wheat exports unless countries from which she buys manufactured goods agree to put ceilings on those prices.

- - - -

JAPANESE CLOTH OF U.S. COTTON SOLD TO SWEDEN-Arrangements have been completed for the sale to Sweden of Japanese cotton textiles made from American-loaned cotton and sold through an American government agency acting for the occupation forces, it was learned here yesterday. The initial sale of 10,000,000 meters (approximately 9,150,000 yards) for delivery in May is reported to have been made at prices about 20 to 25 percent under comparable American constructions.

- - - -

WHEELER HEADS U.S. UNIT FOR WORLD WOOL PARLEY-Washington-Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson designated today Leslie A. Wheeler to head the five man United States delegation to a thirteen nation wool conference in London beginning March 31. Mr. Wheeler is director of the Agriculture Department's foreign agricultural relations. The conference will study problems of wool production, consumption and trade.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee approved a resolution continuing the domestic wool price support program until the end of 1948.

In order to get rid of huge stocks it has on hand, the measure will allow the Commodity Credit Corp. to sell its wool at below the parity price which on Feb. 15 was 40.4 cents a pound. The support price will remain between 41.6 and 42.4 cents a pound, where it has been since the buying program began in 1943.

- - - -



From Minneapolis, (Miss) Tribune, March 20 -

**DANGER SEEN IN \$3 WHEAT: 'BUST FOLLOWS BOOM' FARMERS ARE WARNED**-Farmers are not happy that wheat went to \$3 a bushel in Chicago, National Farmers Union leaders meeting in St. Paul were told Wednesday.

Speakers in close touch with the nation's economy warned of the "inflationary signs which include high wheat prices," and expressed fear that it might presage the "bust following the boom."

"The time is rapidly approaching when the farmer will have to think again about measures to improve marketing and maintain food and fiber consumption in this country and abroad," Frederick W. Vaugh, agricultural economist for the National Council of Economic Advisors, declared.

"Already in these prosperous United States there are growing signs of deficiencies of purchasing power in the hands of consumers," he said.

- - - -

From Des Moines (Iowa) Register, March 20 -

**GROWING RISK IN GRAIN SPECULATION**-Editorial-The Commodity Exchange Administration thinks that the grain exchanges should require at least 25 percent margins in order to curtail speculation in grain. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, meanwhile, has warned that "speculation is talking loud in the wheat market," and has cautioned people against dabbling in grain futures.

The grain exchanges complied with the government request early this week, but the action didn't mean much because brokers already were requiring margins about that high.

Then grain prices move up sharply over a period of a few months, many non-professional speculators are attracted into the market. Frequently these "lambs" are quite cleanly "shorn" before they get out.

- - - -

From Boston (Mass.) Globe, March 18 -

**UNSETTLED MARKET**-Editorial-The exchange in which future yields of grain are bought and sold have often been regarded as the cause of fluctuating prices of important foods. Now comes Walter Scott, president of the National Association of Commodity Exchanges and Allied Trades, Inc., to present another view.

He declares that the situation is of the government's own making, instead of being "speculation talking loud in the wheat market," as recently charged by the Secretary of Agriculture.

It used to be that supply and demand and the weather were the factors to watch. Now there has come government price support and also government purchase for export. Both look uncertain to those who grow wheat and also to those who deal in it. Mr. Scott points out how the government announced last November that its purchase for relief had been complete. Then the Commodity Credit Corporation announced that it would support wheat on the basis of \$1.88 a bushel for shipment in May. Now there is a new decision, no more wheat is to be shipped in May and June, but flour is to be purchased. Guessing when dollars are involved tries the nerves. A settled policy would relieve the strain.

- - - -

From the Oklahoma City, (Okla.) Oklahoman, March 18 -

THEY DON'T FACE THE FACTS--The U.S. Department of Agriculture a few days ago announced "plans for supporting prices of the 1947 potato crop as required by the Steagall amendment," under PMA.

It will be painfully recalled that under a similarly elaborate system in 1946 there was a surplus of 100,000,000 bushels of potatoes, costing the taxpayers \$80 millions in price supports, and the potatoes rotted because they couldn't be moved to where they were needed.

Anyone who cares to look up the statistics of the AAA "crop control and benefit" plan of the late 1930's knows that all farms were photographed from the air and maps made, at a huge cost, and penalties were imposed to "control" crops, and yet the yields were larger under "crop control" than under the former free system--also the prices were lower to the farmer.

Despite the perfectly obvious failure of AAA or PMA actually to control crops, the vast USDA bureaucracy plunges blindly ahead as if it were working.

So now, again, comes along list of rules and regulations on "potato crop control," so it may be confidently expected that there will be another huge surplus, or possibly a short crop due to the weather, coupled with a newly announced policy of forcing potatoes into states of low yield--an example of the "ever-abnormal granary" which has afflicted American agriculture ever since Washington has been trying to run it. --Editorial--

- - - -

From Peoria, (Ill.) Journal-Transcript, March 19 -

CORN URGED AS SOURCE OF MOTOR FUEL--Use of corn in the manufacture of alcohol for motor fuel could reduce the largest surplus of that grain the country has ever known, according to Dr. G. E. Hilbert, director of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory.

Speaking before the agricultural committee of Peoria Association of Commerce Tuesday night, Dr. Hilbert said alcohol is the best fuel for motor-driven equipment and can be used in the pure state or as a mixture with gasoline.

Elaborating on the subject, "New Uses of Farm Products and Farm Wastes," the laboratory head said 30-cent-a-bushel corn could be used for manufacture of pure alcohol for motor fuel at a price motorists could afford to pay, and that dollar corn could be used for a 5 percent blend with alcohol and not increase price of gasoline more than two cents a gallon.

Dr. Hilbert suggested four ways in which farm surpluses may be reduced, probably by a combination of all four. These were restricted production, conversion of the surpluses to feeding animal stocks, exportation and conversion to industrial uses.

- - - -

From Denver, (Colo.) Post, March 19 -

SHOOTING THE MOON--Three-dollar wheat and \$2 corn--not the moon--are targets at which American farmers have been shooting this year. Tuesday they hit the \$3 wheat mark. And who knows but that they will be as successful on corn?

The \$3.05 wheat price reached on the Chicago market Tuesday was the highest in 30 years and marked the second time in the ninety-nine years' history of the Chicago exchange that wheat had passed the \$3 mark. March corn reached \$1.78 3/4 on Monday. That was the highest since the \$1.97 1/4 peak in May, 1920.

Increased foreign demand is the Department of Agriculture explanation for skyrocketing grain prices. Last August, American wheat exports for the fiscal year of '47 were estimated at 267 million bushels. Now this figure has been raised to 350 millions. What concerns the most people in rising wheat prices is the effect upon price of bread. (Editorial)

USDA 615-47-4



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 31 --

GRAIN EXPORT HELD PERIL TO ECONOMY: TRADE BODY SEES FURTHER PRICE RISE AS SUPPLIES DWINDLE; URGES CONGRESS INQUIRY--Washington--The National Association of Commodity Markets and Allied Trades, Inc., said tonight that the United States was probably shipping abroad larger amounts of grain "than are safe for our economy."

J. A. Higgons Jr., executive vice president of the association, wrote Senator John J. Williams, Republican of Delaware:

"Even though we raised the largest crop in history the total visible supply is less than 36,000,000 bushels, and each week inroads are being made on these accumulations, which have had a marked effect on prices thus far, and will probably be greatly accentuated as our supplies dwindle further!"

Urging A Congressional investigation of the entire grain marketing situation, Mr. Higgons said:

"The market is faced with explosive possibilities due to the fact that the Government's reputed export program has been stepped up to the point where it will require full realization of the bumper crop of 1,170,000,000 bushels indicated in the last crop report to prevent the creation of a supply condition that would be dangerous in this country."

- - - -

TRADE BOARD URGES EXPORT CONTROL END--The international trade section of the New York Board of Trade, Inc., went on record over the weekend as advocating the complete elimination of export controls by June 30. The organization, in a resolution passed unanimously, endorsed the stand of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in urging their prompt discontinuance as an excellent way to place Japan on a self-sustaining basis. The position applies, according to the section, not only to Japan, but to all nations including the United States.

Offered by George F. Bauer, director of the group's Government relations division, the resolution explained that the "recommendation for the discontinuance of export restrictions is based on the practical experience of business leaders who find it difficult to advance the sale of products around which exists the uncertainty of obtaining the necessary export license, following their sales efforts."

- - - -

POTATO ACREAGE TO DROP: 12 PERCENT U.S. WIDE RECESSION IS EXPECTED THIS YEAR--Albany--Potato acreage this year is expected to drop 12 percent below 1946 in New York and the rest of the United States, according to a report issued today by the State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In New York, according to plans revealed by leading growers and summarized in the Department's report, 62,000 acres of potatoes will be planted on Long Island and another 88,000 up-State. The figures for Long Island where the acreage has been increasing in recent years, indicate a 14 percent decline in relation to 1946, but an 11 percent increase over the ten year average from 1936-45. The up-State estimate is 11 percent less than last year's actual acreage, and 40 percent below the ten year average."

- - - -

From New York Times, March 31 -

WHOSE PRICE RISE?-Editorial-President Truman and Secretary of the Treasury Snyder have expressed their concern over the high price level and indicated that they think industry should do something about it. In effect, this statement places the responsibility for the recent price spiral upon industry. While there is no doubt that rises in industrial prices have contributed to the present problem, it is clear that only <sup>part</sup> 70 of the responsibility rests upon industry. An examination of price changes shows that the largest increases have taken place in farm and food prices. An analysis of the rise in the consumers' price index during the past year, for example, shows that 70 percent of the increase was accounted for by higher food prices. Certainly industry cannot be held responsible for the large increases here. A similar picture is shown when the comparisons are made for the entire wartime period. From August 1939, to date farm prices has risen about 178 percent, while industrial prices have risen only 50 percent. Government policy, rather than industrial price policy, must bear the primary responsibility for the present high level of prices.

- - - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 31 -

SUGAR PROSPECTS-Sugar prices will rise substantially following decontrol on Oct. 31 but the upward pressure will be curbed by the substantial increase in supplies indicated late this year from the rise in the current Cuban crop and the expansion generally in 1948 production.

- - - - -

'TURPS' PRICE SUPPORT-Turpentine productions increase expected with warm weather seen bar to price support by Department of Agriculture.

- - - - -

SHORT LIVED SPURT SEEN WITH SUGAR DECONTROL-Before sugar rationing expires tonight at midnight, unless there is a last minute hitch, Congress will have passed, and the President signed, new legislation continuing sugar rationing and price controls until October 31, and inventory controls to March 31, 1948.

The importance of inventory control will be a negligible factor in the market since, with the price and rationing regulations off on Oct. 31, manufacturers will be in a position to buy unlimited quantities of sugar if they are prepared to step up their operations and turn sugar into an end product while maintaining sugar inventories at not more than a 30 days' supply.

Once the initial spurt is over the impression is that industrial users will follow a conservative policy in buying for inventory purposes.

- - - - -



From Dayton (Ohio) News - March 23 -

FEW FARMERS SOLD WHEAT AT RECORD PRICE-Spiralling wheat prices on the Chicago Board of Trade did not line local farmer's pockets with gold nor pad their bank accounts with huge balances, for the simple reason that farmers did not have the wheat to sell when the price was soaring.

This fact was definitely developed by a personal inquiry among farmers, who attended Farm and Home Week at Columbus. More than 200 men of the soil were asked the question, "How much wheat do you have to sell at these high prices?" And almost invariably the answers were the same--"none at all."

The farmers came from all parts of the state. Some from the Miami Valley, some from the central counties and others from northern part of the State.

Of all the persons who were interviewed only one had his 1946 wheat crop. He has 2280 bushels on warehouse receipts. He stated that ever since the federal loans were made available for wheat and other grains he has followed the policy of storing his grain and selling it later.

- - - -

From Chicago News, March 19 -

ANDERSON USE TELESCOPE'S WRONG END-Editorial-Another instance of seeing things wrong end to is the complaint in government circles that speculators in grain are responsible for high prices.

If Secretary Anderson would look through the right end of the telescope he would observe that the government itself is responsible for the price gains.

The Commodity Credit Corporation has been buying wheat for foreign shipment and, even though transportation is so bad the wheat cannot be moved, the CCC still refuses to let millers use it. Normally a buyer in the position of the CCC would do that and relieve a tense situation.

Processors and millers suddenly finding their supplies cut off, are obliged to protect themselves by buying futures. Even the government's own statistics as to the increase in the "open interest" show that the speculator has not been other than a minor incidental factor in putting up the price of wheat.

- - - -

From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald-March 23 -

THE PRICE OF WHEAT-Editorial-Associated Press Writer Al Dopking toured the Kansas wheat belt and found that farmers were not unanimously pleased about the fact that wheat has gone to \$3 a bushel.

Many agreed with an elevator operator who said: "What I'm afraid of is it will get up there and wham!"

After the last war it was wham! indeed.

During World War I wheat at Kansas City reached a monthly average of \$3.01. In May, 1920, it was still at \$2.93. The break came, and by April 1921, it had dropped to \$1.33. By December 1932, wheat at Kansas City was down to 42 cents.

To attempt to predict the future from the past is always perilous. But it might be well for wheat growers to keep in mind the fact that what does up can come down and try to govern themselves accordingly.

- - - -

From Nashville (Tenn.) Tennessean, March 19 -

POLICE NEEDED-Editorial - Wheat hit \$3.05 yesterday before it settled back to the previous day's minimum. On its rampage, that grain has been exerting an upward tug on the whole price structure, and a direct inflationary effect on the cost of bread, pastries, animal feed, meat, dairy products, and fats. Riding the upward trend is a host of speculators attracted by the odor of unearned gains.

The South's experience with the speculative boom in cotton, which ended in the market crash of last fall, points the way toward handling the wheat binge. Permanent legislation to give the government the same controls over the produce markets which are now exercised over the stock and bond exchanges is necessary to protect the nation from the damages which the speculator can do.

- - - -

From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 22 -

THE GRAIN HAS TO MOVE-Editorial - While grain prices soar on the markets, due in part at least to the shortage of boxcars to bring in the grain which has been promised, truck lines are running empty to Chicago from the Twin Cities and from the Dakotas into the Twin Cities.

Country elevators are closed in town after town because they are filled with grain. The grain they contain cannot be shipped to terminals for lack of boxcars. Farmers still holding grain on the farm cannot bring that grain into the already full country elevators.

Midwestern railroads contend their boxcars are being held by eastern roads, and the reports on disposition of such cars bear them out.

Stored grain is deteriorating. Another crop is coming up in the southwest and farmers there are becoming alarmed already about the expected shortage of transportation to move it to market. The federal government repeats and repeats the need for grain is tremendous, at home and abroad. . . .

It is time pressure was applied in Washington by the representatives of the midwest in congress to see that something is done.

- - - -

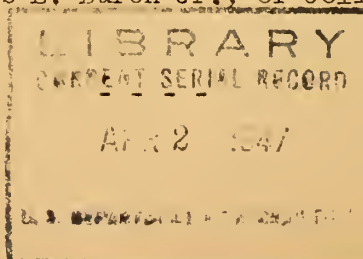
From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, March 22 -

FARMERS SHOUT DOWN SOIL-SAVING PROGRAM- Ruggedly independent farmers of the Eads Community, in a scene reminiscent of an Early American town hall debate, last night shouted against a proposal to let a Government agency control soil conservation work here.

"As long as powder will burn, one muttered, "nobody's going to come on my land and tell me what to do with it."

No vote was taken at the meeting in George R. James School, near the eastern county line. From their attitude, however, an over-whelming majority of the 80 men was against the plan. Five farmers cried out in opposition; only one ventured a mild and hedged-in approval.

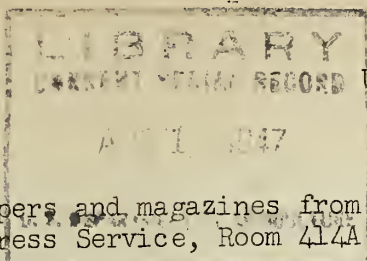
The farmers refused a Government offer of "free" heavy land-moving equipment. Use of the surplus machinery depended on county residents' agreement to create a Soil Conservation District, Lucius E. Burch Jr., of Collierville, attorney, told the group.



Farm Digest 645-47-4



1.914  
#2D14  
Cop 2  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 28, 1947)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 28 -

SENATE BY 46 TO 34 VOTES SUGAR CURBS ONLY UNTIL OCT. 31: HOME USER TO GET 35 POUNDS, INCREASE OF 10 AND MORE IF THE SUPPLY IMPROVES-Washington-The Senate voted tonight to continue sugar rationing until Oct. 31. A Republican Senator shouted treachery at the majority party for killing a provision to continue sugar controls for a whole year.

In one of the most turbulent sessions of the Eightieth Congress, the control extension bill was passed by a vote of 46 to 34 at 7:30 p.m. It would assure the housewife and other home users thirty five pounds of sugar, ten pounds more than last year. It also would increase the allowance to fifty pounds if the supply improves measurably.

In support of the Oct. 31 closing date, Senator McCarthy said he had just been informed by Department of Agriculture officials that 700,000 tons of sugar were available in addition to the 6,800,000 short tons controlled by the Government through the Commodity Credit Corporation. He also urged this as an argument for increasing the per capita allotment to forty pounds.

- - - -

YUGOSLAVIA ASKS BRITAIN FOR FOOD; LONDON TO REJECT REQUESTS-London-Yugoslavia has asked Britain for substantial economic aid; the Foreign Office revealed tonight.

Two notes have been received. The first asks Britain to take steps to provide food and raw materials to meet requirements stated to total \$60,800,000. The second asks Britain to support the Yugoslav request to UNRRA for the immediate delivery of 200,000 tons of wheat. Both requests, it was indicated will be turned down.

- - - -

U.S. WILL SEND POTATO TO YUGOSLAVIA-Washington-The State Department decided today to allow up to 50,000 tons of potatoes to be sent to Yugoslavia in response to a request for Sava N. Kusanovic, her Ambassador here. The department again turned down the request for grain.

- - - -

U.S. GIVES FRANCE PLEDGE ON WHEAT: 553,000 TONS WILL BE SHIPPED FROM HERE DURING 1947, RAMADIER ASSERTS-Paris-Premier Paul Ramadier said today that he had received assurances from Washington that wheat shipments from the United States to France would be 553,000 tons this year and that the delivery schedule would be advanced by one month. He added that this would be insufficient to see France through the summer in view of the short winter crop but that it would help immensely.

- - - -

From New York Times, March 28 -

CUBA RAISES BREAD 3 CENTS-Havana-The Cabinet last night increased the price of bread from 12 to 15 cents a pound in an effort to ease the shortage. The increased price of flour in the United States, despite the subsidy being paid by the Cuban Government, makes this price increase necessary according to Minister of Commerce Cesar Casas.

- - - -

COMMODITY PRICES HIGHER LAST WEEK; OFFICIAL INDEX ADVANCED 0.5% DESPITE A DECLINE OF 0.7% IN FARM PRODUCTS-Washington-After the preceding slight decline, average primary market prices rose 0.5 percent during the week ended last Saturday, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices of non-agricultural commodities continued their steady advance; agricultural commodities declined.

At 149.0 percent of the 1926 average, the bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets was 37.5 percent above a year ago and about 11 percent below the May, 1920, peak.

Led by lower prices for livestock and fresh fruits and vegetables average prices of farm products declined 0.7 percent during the week. With some improvement in supplies, prices for most livestock were lower. Sharp declines in prices of grains, beginning on March 18, were not yet fully reflected in the index.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 28 -

ANDERSON ASKS STRICT CONTROLS-Washington-Strict Government controls over margins on commodity markets and some regulation of market forecasters were suggested to Congress by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, who reported on an investigation into last October's cotton market break.

The report said: "The investigation disclosed a type of speculative activity with which the Government is unable to deal effectively under existing law. For this reason I feel impelled to comment specially on this, and to suggest that Congress may wish to consider remedial measures."

- - - -

C.C.C. OFFICIALS DENY GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF FLOUR MARKET-Washington-Officials of the Commodity Credit Corporation denied reports that the Government was out of the flour market.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 28 -

FUNDS VOTED TO FIGHT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE-Washington-President Truman today signed legislation to authorize spending \$10,000,000 to eradicate foot and mouth disease among cattle in Mexico.

- - - -



From Bakersfield Californian-March 18 -

PRODUCE MEN WARNED OF NEW CAR SHORTAGE-West coast perishable fruit and vegetable growers were forwarned Monday after noon to expect another summer of refrigerator car shortages, although no adequate supply of ice was in prospect for shipping purposes.

Railroad and government transportation officials met with growers and shippers at a perishable commodity and transportation conference at Stockdale, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Kern County Potato Growers Association.

In addition to the anticipated refrigerator car shortage, general conclusions resulting from the conference were:

1. West coast growers and shippers favor abolishment of the refrigerator car pool arrangement.
2. Growers and shippers want freight schedules speeded up, but stated their belief that railroads probably were not going to do anything about improving freight schedules this year.
3. General opinion was that service order 104 should be restored to its original text in an effort to facilitate movement of empty refrigerator cars to the coast states.

- - - - -

From Indianapolis (Ind) Star, March 23 -

FEDERAL GRANT FOES ON SPOT: MADDEN QUESTIONS ASSEMBLY SINCERITY-Washington-Representative Ray Madden, Indiana Democrat, inquired today if the Indiana Legislature was sincere when it passed a resolution against further Federal grants to Indiana, and pointed out that last year Hoosier farmers alone received \$74,842,905 in Federal aid.

Madden, lone Indiana Democrat to take the oath of office in the 80th Congress, said he is drafting a letter to Governor Ralph Gates to ask "if the Legislature was going through some double talk to fool the voters of Indiana when it passed the resolution, or if it really intends to carry out what it said."

Madden said he intends to call the attention of Congress to the situation and exert his effort to protect the farmer and other groups in Indiana who benefit from various Federal programs.

- - - - -

From Atlanta (Ga) Daily World, March 18 -

FACTS ABOUT FARMERS-Editorial-The economists tell us that the farmer hit his peak prosperity in 1946 and that the outlook for 1947 involves lower prices.

Nobody knows, not even the farmers, what is in store for agriculture after 1948, when all Government guarantees may be withdrawn. Much depends upon the carry over of the various crops and the condition of world affairs which will largely govern demands for American crops.

It is very interesting to note that the American farmers has some good years but when somebody talks about an income of more than \$14,000,000,000 in 1946, the readers should compare this with the national income of more than \$161,000,000,000 and recall that more than 26,000,000 Americans live on the nation's farms.

- - - - -

From Chicago Sun, Mar. 22 -

GET IN THERE AND PLANT-Editorial - We're a few weeks late with our annual appeal to residents of Chicago and satellite communities to get their gardening plans under way, but what the heck, the planting season will be a few weeks late, too.

American home gardening, we are happy to learn, is expected to equal or surpass the heights touched during the war. It is especially good news that many Americans are buying seed to send to friends and relatives overseas.

In addition to your own pleasure and profit in continuing to garden -- or becoming a fledgling gardener if you were too busy elsewhere in World War II -- your efforts with rake, hoe and muscle are needed. The output of millions of tiny American vacant-lot and backyard plots aggregates a total which wins respect even in a nation used to elaborately mechanized, large-scale agriculture.

- - - -

From St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch, Mar. 17 -

DESERVED HONOR FOR TOLLEY-Editorial - The National Farmers Union honors itself as well as Howard R. Tolley in selecting him to receive its award here in St. Paul Wednesday night for "the most outstanding service to agriculture in 1946."

For such honors do not go too often to those deserving them so thoroughly as Tolley. In line when honors like this are being given are too frequently to be found the flashy fellows, the spellbinders and boys of clever footwork politically.

But in choosing Tolley, the Farmers Union has passed by all those scintillating fellows. He isn't any of those types. Tolley is an agricultural economist, perhaps the greatest in the world. He is a solid character that's like a rock in the faithfulness of its service and dependability of its advice to agriculture. His is an intellect so big that it can perceive and fit into their places the intricate factors that comprise and play upon the economy of the nation and the world. .

The Farmers Union thus has made a fine selection for its award. Those who bestow and receive this honor deserve congratulations.

- - - -

From Asheville (N. C.) Citizen - Mar. 19 -

DANDER SIGXAL?-Editorial - Wheat prices topped the \$3 mark yesterday at Chicago, dragging the brakes on margin requirements and warnings against excessive speculation. By mid-day the price had bounded to \$3.05 a bushel, only to fall off 10 cents at the closing.

One year ago the price hovered around \$1.75. Soon afterward, OPA received its effective death blow. While the increase in price is justified in large part by greater foreign demand, it would be hard to deny that speculation is fast and loose in the commodity markets. When the Chicago Board of Trade doubled margin requirements yesterday, wheat had passed the \$3 point for the second time in 30 years.

Is this, possibly, where we came in -- nearly a generation ago?

The portents are ominous despite the greatly altered world picture of wheat production. . . .

All of this seems to suggest that history operates in stubborn cycle. Post-war I cotton fell off from 43 cents a pound to about 14 cents before the speculation of 1920 had run its course. These sharp breaks in commodity prices were followed by a depression, and then a leveling-off, and then the Great Depression.

- - - -



1.914  
A2D14  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 28, 1947)

RECORD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 28 -

SENATE BY 46 TO 34 VOTES SUGAR CURBS ONLY UNTIL OCT. 31: HOME USER TO GET 35 POUNDS, INCREASE OF 10 AND MORE IF THE SUPPLY IMPROVES-Washington-The Senate voted tonight to continue sugar rationing until Oct. 31. A Republican Senator shouted treachery at the majority party for killing a provision to continue sugar controls for a whole year.

In one of the most turbulent sessions of the Eightieth Congress, the control extension bill was passed by a vote of 46 to 34 at 7:30 p.m. It would assure the housewife and other home users thirty five pounds of sugar, ten pounds more than last year. It also would increase the allowance to fifty pounds if the supply improves measurably.

In support of the Oct. 31 closing date, Senator McCarthy said he had just been informed by Department of Agriculture officials that 700,000 tons of sugar were available in addition to the 6,800,000 short tons controlled by the Government through the Commodity Credit Corporation. He also urged this as an argument for increasing the per capita allotment to forty pounds.

- - - -

YUGOSLAVIA ASKS BRITAIN FOR FOOD; LONDON TO REJECT REQUESTS-London-Yugoslavia has asked Britain for substantial economic aid; the Foreign Office revealed tonight.

Two notes have been received. The first asks Britain to take steps to provide food and raw materials to meet requirements stated to total \$60,800,000. The second asks Britain to support the Yugoslav request to UNRRA for the immediate delivery of 200,000 tons of wheat. Both requests, it was indicated will be turned down.

- - - -

U.S. WILL SEND POTATO TO YUGOSLAVIA-Washington-The State Department decided today to allow up to 50,000 tons of potatoes to be sent to Yugoslavia in response to a request for Sava N. Kusanovic, her Ambassador here. The department again turned down the request for grain.

- - - -

U.S. GIVES FRANCE PLEDGE ON WHEAT: 553,000 TONS WILL BE SHIPPED FROM HERE DURING 1947, RAMADIER ASSERTS-Paris-Premier Paul Ramadier said today that he had received assurances from Washington that wheat shipments from the United States to France would be 553,000 tons this year and that the delivery schedule would be advanced by one month. He added that this would be insufficient to see France through the summer in view of the short winter crop but that it would help immensely.

- - - -

From New York Times, March 28 -

CUBA RAISES BREAD 3 CENTS-Havana-The Cabinet last night increased the price of bread from 12 to 15 cents a pound in an effort to ease the shortage. The increased price of flour in the United States, despite the subsidy being paid by the Cuban Government, makes this price increase necessary according to Minister of Commerce Cesar Casas.

- - - -

COMMODITY PRICES HIGHER LAST WEEK; OFFICIAL INDEX ADVANCED 0.5% DESPITE A DECLINE OF 0.7% IN FARM PRODUCTS-Washington-After the preceding slight decline, average primary market prices rose 0.5 percent during the week ended last Saturday, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices of non-agricultural commodities continued their steady advance; agricultural commodities declined.

At 149.0 percent of the 1926 average, the bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets was 37.5 percent above a year ago and about 11 percent below the May, 1920, peak.

Led by lower prices for livestock and fresh fruits and vegetables average prices of farm products declined 0.7 percent during the week. With some improvement in supplies, prices for most livestock were lower. Sharp declines in prices of grains, beginning on March 18, were not yet fully reflected in the index.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 28 -

ANDERSON ASKS STRICT CONTROLS-Washington-Strict Government controls over margins on commodity markets and some regulation of market forecasters were suggested to Congress by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, who reported on an investigation into last October's cotton market break.

The report said: "The investigation disclosed a type of speculative activity with which the Government is unable to deal effectively under existing law. For this reason I feel impelled to comment specially on this, and to suggest that Congress may wish to consider remedial measures."

- - - -

C.C.C. OFFICIALS DENY GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF FLOUR MARKET-Washington-Officials of the Commodity Credit Corporation denied reports that the Government was out of the flour market.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 28 -

FUNDS VOTED TO FIGHT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE-Washington-President Truman today signed legislation to authorize spending \$10,000,000 to eradicate foot and mouth disease among cattle in Mexico.

- - - -



From Bakersfield Californian-March 18 -

PRODUCE MEN WARNED OF NEW CAR SHORTAGE-West coast perishable fruit and vegetable growers were forwarned Monday after noon to expect another summer of refrigerator car shortages, although no adequate supply of ice was in prospect for shipping purposes.

Railroad and government transportation officials met with growers and shippers at a perishable commodity and transportation conference at Stockdale, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Kern County Potato Growers Association.

In addition to the anticipated refrigerator car shortage, general conclusions resulting from the conference were:

1. West coast growers and shippers favor abolishment of the refrigerator car pool arrangement.
2. Growers and shippers want freight schedules speeded up, but stated their belief that railroads probably were not going to do anything about improving freight schedules this year.
3. General opinion was that service order 104 should be restored to its original text in an effort to facilitate movement of empty refrigerator cars to the coast states.

- - - -

From Indianapolis (Ind) Star, March 23 -

FEDERAL GRANT FOES ON SPOT: MADDEN QUESTIONS ASSEMBLY SINCERITY-Washington-Representative Ray Madden, Indiana Democrat, inquired today if the Indiana Legislature was sincere when it passed a resolution against further Federal grants to Indiana, and pointed out that last year Hoosier farmers alone received \$74,842,905 in Federal aid.

Madden, lone Indiana Democrat to take the oath of office in the 80th Congress, said he is drafting a letter to Governor Ralph Gates to ask "if the Legislature was going through some double talk to fool the voters of Indiana when it passed the resolution, or if it really intends to carry out what it said."

Madden said he intends to call the attention of Congress to the situation and exert his effort to protect the farmer and other groups in Indiana who benefit from various Federal programs.

- . - - -

From Atlanta (Ga) Daily World, March 18 -

FACTS ABOUT FARMERS-Editorial-The economists tell us that the farmer hit his peak prosperity in 1946 and that the outlook for 1947 involves lower prices.

Nobody knows, not even the farmers, what is in store for agriculture after 1948, when all Government guarantees may be withdrawn. Much depends upon the carry over of the various crops and the condition of world affairs which will largely govern demands for American crops.

It is very interesting to note that the American farmers has some good years but when somebody talks about an income of more than \$14,000,000,000 in 1946, the readers should compare this with the national income of more than \$161,000,000,000 and recall that more than 26,000,000 Americans live on the nation's farms.

- - - -

From Chicago Sun, Mar. 22 -

GET IN THERE AND PLANT-Editorial - We're a few weeks late with our annual appeal to residents of Chicago and satellite communities to get their gardening plans under way, but what the heck, the planting season will be a few weeks late, too.

American home gardening, we are happy to learn, is expected to equal or surpass the heights touched during the war. It is especially good news that many Americans are buying seed to send to friends and relatives overseas.

In addition to your own pleasure and profit in continuing to garden -- or becoming a fledgling gardener if you were too busy elsewhere in World War II -- your efforts with rake, hoe and muscle are needed. The output of millions of tiny American vacant-lot and backyard plots aggregates a total which wins respect even in a nation used to elaborately mechanized, large-scale agriculture.

- - - -

From St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch, Mar. 17 -

DESERVED HONOR FOR TOLLEY-Editorial - The National Farmers Union honors itself as well as Howard R. Tolley in selecting him to receive its award here in St. Paul Wednesday night for "the most outstanding service to agriculture in 1946."

For such honors do not go too often to those deserving them so thoroughly as Tolley. In line when honors like this are being given are too frequently to be found the flashy fellows, the spellbinders and boys of clever footwork politically.

But in choosing Tolley, the Farmers Union has passed by all those scintillating fellows. He isn't any of those types. Tolley is an agricultural economist, perhaps the greatest in the world. He is a solid character that's like a rock in the faithfulness of its service and dependability of its advice to agriculture. His is an intellect so big that it can perceive and fit into their places the intricate factors that comprise and play upon the economy of the nation and the world.

The Farmers Union thus has made a fine selection for its award. Those who bestow and receive this honor deserve congratulations.

- - - -

From Asheville (N. C.) Citizen - Mar. 19 -

DANDER SIGNAL?-Editorial - Wheat prices topped the \$3 mark yesterday at Chicago, dragging the brakes on margin requirements and warnings against excessive speculation. By mid-day the price had bounded to \$3.05 a bushel, only to fall off 10 cents at the closing.

One year ago the price hovered around \$1.75. Soon afterward, OPA received its effective death blow. While the increase in price is justified in large part by greater foreign demand, it would be hard to deny that speculation is fast and loose in the commodity markets. When the Chicago Board of Trade doubled margin requirements yesterday, wheat had passed the \$3 point for the second time in 30 years.

Is this, possibly, where we came in -- nearly a generation ago?

The portents are ominous despite the greatly altered world picture of wheat production. . . .

All of this seems to suggest that history operates in stubborn cycle. Post-war I cotton fell off from 43 cents a pound to about 14 cents before the speculation of 1920 had run its course. These sharp breaks in commodity prices were followed by a depression, and then a leveling-off, and then the Great Depression.

- - - -



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, March 26 -

**CITY COUNCIL ASKS FOOD PRICE INQUIRY: RESOLUTION CALLS ON CONGRESS TO DETERMINE IF HIGH COSTS ARE RESULT OF CONSPIRACY**-A resolution calling upon Congress to investigate the "all-time high" level of food prices was adopted unanimously yesterday by the City Council.

Joseph T. Sharkey, Vice Chairman of the Council, who was sponsor for the resolution, said he hoped the Council's action would "bring a general outcry" from other parts of the <sup>country</sup> that would "get something done." Because of the "outrageous prices being charged for common foodstuffs," many children are being deprived of the necessities of life, he asserted.

The average American wants to know, the resolution said, why the excessive prices are allowed to continue and "whether it is the result of a conspiracy on the part of selfish groups in the food industry or the result of numerous food shipments abroad."

- - - -

**DAIRY FARM STRIKE ENFORCED BY RIFLES**-Amite, La.--Dairy farmers of Louisiana's "Florida parishes," an area which once fought a successful rebellion against Spain, went out with rifles and shotguns today to enforce a strike against a decline in the price of milk.

Bands of farmers, many of them armed, seized at least eight tank trucks and emptied about 50,000 gallons of milk into ditches. There were no reports of personal violence.

Distributors in New Orleans, principal outlet for the milk produced in the area, estimated the city's supply would be cut in half if the strike continued. The State capital of Baton Rouge and several other cities are expected to be similarly affected.

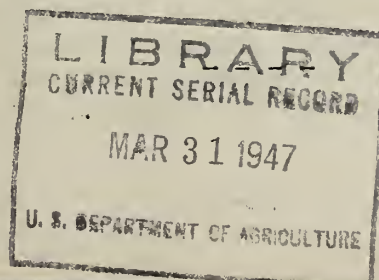
Spokesmen for the farmers said that arrangements were being made to assure adequate milk supplies for hospitals and other public institutions.

- - - -

**RISE IN MILK PRICE SOUGHT FOR FARMERS**-Revision of the formula by which the farm price of milk for this area is computed was advocated yesterday.

Spokesmen for dairymen who produce most of the city's milk supply also requested increases to farmers for their milk next summer and fall. The suggested advances would amount to a rise of 2 cents a quart in the retail price.

A hearing was under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture.



From New York Times, March 26 -

STUDIES UNDER WAY FOR CROP INSURANCE-Washington-An intensive review of the Federal crop insurance program is under way in preparation for a show-down whether or not it will have any future under the Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Involved in the hearings before the Appropriations Committee will be a \$25,000,000 grant to cover the rest of the 1946 crop obligations, due to cotton losses, as well as the 1947-48 appropriations for next year's wheat, flax and cotton crops, and some corn and tobacco coverage.

Gus Geissler, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation said today that his recommendation as to the future program varied by crops. For wheat and flax, he held, it would be necessary to discontinue insurance only in the areas where the farm income came chiefly from some other crop. He advocated confining cotton insurance in general "to those areas in which it is indicated we can operate a successful program."

- - - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 26 -

TURPENTINE PRICE GOES BELOW PARITY: 97C QUOTED IN SAVANNAH MARKET--SUPPORT PLAN IS DELAYED-Washington-The Government will not begin formulating a 1947 price support program for turpentine at least until April, despite a drop in the Savannah market to more than 5c below the March parity.

Turpentine dropped to 97c at Savannah today after varying around \$1 during the past week. The March parity, set the Department of Agriculture on the basis of farmers' costs during February, is \$1.021 a gallon at Savannah.

- - - - -

SUGAR DEMAND -Refined sugar demand is improving and is expected to broaden further as the new stamp No. 11 becomes valid on April 1. Only five days remain for Congress to act on sugar legislation. Rationing, otherwise, expires automatically on March 31.

- - - - -

CCC BACK IN MARKET-Chicago grain futures finish with a display of strength following reports that CCC has reentered the market, purchasing new crop wheat in the Southwest. Earlier trading had been nervous, with some declines noted.

- - - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 26 -

BOARD OF TRADE VOTES TO REMAIN OPEN SATURDAYS THIS SUMMER-Chicago-A negative decision was reached yesterday by directors of the Chicago Board of Trade on the question of closing the grain department on Saturdays during the summer months.

The fact that grain growers and country shippers work on Saturdays, the shortage of box cars, possible demurrage charges, and the chance of grain deteriorating, especially during the hot weather, furnished the background for the decision.

- - - - -



From Rockford, (Ill.) Star, March 19 -

FARMERS RAP PRICE HIKES, \$3 WHEAT: FEAR RECESSION-Although little wheat is grown in the Rockford area, Winnebago county farmers yesterday watched prices for grain soar to \$3 a bushel and many shook their heads in opposition to price increases they fear will cause another postwar economic crisis.

Farm Adviser Henry R. Brunnemeyer said a majority of farmers don't want prices to get out of line.

"Farmers shake their heads when they hear and read about price increases because they realize that eventually consumers are going to stop buying and that resistance will be reflected in an unstable economy and lower market rates," Brunnemeyer declared.

"Hopes for a level economy are expressed by farmers because they know that sooner or later the price pendulum is going to swing the other way. Most of them just hope it doesn't go too far."

- - - -

From Indianapolis, (Ind.) Star, March 19 -

OLD RELIABLE SUPPLY AND DEMAND-Editorial-Wheat went to \$3.05 on the Chicago futures market yesterday. If any Hoosier farmer had had wheat on hand to bring to the Indianapolis market he would have received \$2.75 a bushel. No telling what he might get today or tomorrow.

But whatever the price may be, the grower knows he is not indebted to AAA, OPA or any other relic of the New Deal days. He is not being paid for plowing under a third of his crop. Nor is he getting a subsidy for wheat he did not raise.

There may be some juggling on the market, but the fact remains that wheat is worth \$2.75 to the Indiana farmer because of demand and shortage of available supply. That price is what it is worth to buyers. It is the old reliable law of supply and demand in operation.

- - - -

From Lewiston, (Me.) Sun, March 18 -

BONUS FOR FARMERS-Editorial-The Republican party can hardly expect to escape the charge of double talk on the matter of government economy when one group vows economies running up to five or six billion dollars while another acts in the opposition direction.

One of the most glaring recent examples of government extravagance and subservience to political pressure was the spectacle furnished by the Senate Agriculture committee, controlled of course by the Republicans, in voting Saturday to give corn and wheat farmers a bonus that may cost the Treasury up to a billion dollars.

If this bill passes, which we fervently hope is not the case, a big proportion of the savings the GOP hopes to make in President Truman's 1948 budget will go by the board.

- - - -

From San Antonio (Tex) Express, March 17-

SOUND COUNSEL FROM COTTON PRODUCTION COMMITTEE-Editorial-To put this State's cotton industry on its feet again, Texas farmers should increase their plantings from last year's 5 million to at least 7 million acres.

It is even more important that farmers strive to increase the yield per acre. Last year, on the average, it took three acres to produce one bale. As a result, Texas harvested its shortest crop since 1889--only about 1,700,000 bales. For 1947, let the growers set their mark at a half bale to the acre. Even that yield would fall considerably below the South wide average.

Certain older cotton States--Mississippi and Georgia, for examples--have made land which has been in cultivation far longer than the Texas Blacklands yield almost a bale to the acre. Systematic soil building obtained that result. Farmers sowed legumes for winter cover and plowed under the crop for green manure. Texans profitably might adopt that course.

- - - -

From Grand Rapids, (Mich.) Herald, March 18 -

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN-Editorial-Twenty two farmers in the Sparta area, finishing "school" this week, are estimated to have saved \$2,500 by making or repairing farm tools in the Sparta Adult Farm Shop during their 10 week course, but that is only the first dividend.

Like others in previous classes and still more in future classes, they will take with them the "know how" of shop work that will save them more dollars and, more important, prevent farm losses by keeping their machinery in tip top shape.

But even more than the financial saving and monetary gain will be the satisfaction of having new skills and the fun they seem to have had in working and learning together.

- - - -

From Wichita, (Kan.) Beacon, March 18 -

EROSION IS THE GREATEST ROBBER OF KANSAS SOIL-Editorial-Kansas soil is losing ten times as much of its fertility to erosion as is being required for the production of crops. This warning was voiced by the State's conservation leaders at the outset of their meeting which opened in Wichita Monday.

Appropriations for the expansion of conservation work in Kansas is placed at the head of the list of Kansas' present urgent needs. The most serious Kansas problem, conservation experts say, is agriculture. If more money is not provided for conservation work, it is predicted, from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres of land, now producing grain crops, must be turned back to grass land to allow it to recover its fertility.

Erosion of Kansas soil is proceeding at a rate that if combatted as at present will require 65 years to overtake. In the last year it was possible to treat only 1.5 percent of the total state acreage that is in need of treatment for erosion.

- - - -



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 31 -

GRAIN EXPORT HELD PERIL TO ECONOMY: TRADE BODY SEES FURTHER PRICE RISE AS SUPPLIES DWINDLE, URGES CONGRESS INQUIRY-Washington-The National Association of Commodity Markets and Allied Trades, Inc., said tonight that the United States was probably shipping abroad larger amounts of grain "than are safe for our economy."

J. A. Higgons Jr., executive vice president of the association, wrote Senator John J. Williams, Republican of Delaware:

"Even though we raised the largest crop in history the total visible supply is less than 36,000,000 bushels, and each week inroads are being made on these accumulations, which have had a marked effect on prices thus far, and will probably be greatly accentuated as our supplies dwindle further!"

Urging A Congressional investigation of the entire grain marketing situation, Mr. Higgons said:

"The market is faced with explosive possibilities due to the fact that the Government's reputed export program has been stepped up to the point where it will require full realization of the bumper crop of 1,170,000,000 bushels indicated in the last crop report to prevent the creation of a supply condition that would be dangerous in this country."

- - - -

TRADE BOARD URGES EXPORT CONTROL END-The international trade section of the New York Board of Trade, Inc., went on record over the weekend as advocating the complete elimination of export controls by June 30. The organization, in a resolution passed unanimously, endorsed the stand of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in urging their prompt discontinuance as an excellent way to place Japan on a self-sustaining basis. The position applies, according to the section, not only to Japan, but to all nations including the United States.

Offered by George F. Bauer, director of the group's Government relations division, the resolution explained that the "recommendation for the discontinuance of export restrictions is based on the practical experience of business leaders who find it difficult to advance the sale of products around which exists the uncertainty of obtaining the necessary export license, following their sales efforts."

- - - -

POTATO ACREAGE TO DROP: 12 PERCENT U.S. WIDE RECESSION IS EXPECTED THIS YEAR-Albany-Potato acreage this year is expected to drop 12 percent below 1946 in New York and the rest of the United States, according to a report issued today by the State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In New York, according to plans revealed by leading growers and summarized in the Department's report, 62,000 acres of potatoes will be planted on Long Island and another 88,000 up-State. The figures for Long Island where the acreage has been increasing in recent years, indicate a 14 percent decline in relation to 1946, but an 11 percent increase over the ten year average from 1936-45. The up-State estimate is 11 percent less than last year's actual acreage, and 40 percent below the ten year average."

- - - -

From New York Times, March 31 -

WHOSE PRICE RISE?-Editorial-President Truman and Secretary of the Treasury Snyder have expressed their concern over the high price level and indicated that they think industry should do something about it. In effect, this statement places the responsibility for the recent price spiral upon industry. While there is no doubt that rises in industrial prices have contributed to the present problem, it is clear that only <sup>part</sup> 1/3 of the responsibility rests upon industry. An examination of price changes shows that the largest increases have taken place in farm and food prices. An analysis of the rise in the consumers' price index during the past year, for example, shows that 70 percent of the increase was accounted for by higher food prices. Certainly industry cannot be held responsible for the large increases here. A similar picture is shown when the comparisons are made for the entire wartime period. From August 1939, to date farm prices has risen about 178 percent, while industrial prices have risen only 50 percent. Government policy, rather than industrial price policy, must bear the primary responsibility for the present high level of prices.

- - - -

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 31 -

SUGAR PROSPECTS-Sugar prices will rise substantially following decontrol on Oct. 31 but the upward pressure will be curbed by the substantial increase in supplies indicated late this year from the rise in the current Cuban crop and the expansion generally in 1948 production.

- - - -

'TURPS' PRICE SUPPORT-Turpentine productions increase expected with warm weather seen bar to price support by Department of Agriculture.

- - - -

SHORT LIVED SPURT SEEN WITH SUGAR DECONTROL-Before sugar rationing expires tonight at midnight, unless there is a last minute hitch, Congress will have passed, and the President signed, new legislation continuing sugar rationing and price controls until October 31, and inventory controls to March 31, 1948.

The importance of inventory control will be a negligible factor in the market since, with the price and rationing regulations off on Oct. 31, manufacturers will be in a position to buy unlimited quantities of sugar if they are prepared to step up their operations and turn sugar into an end product while maintaining sugar inventories at not more than a 30 days' supply.

Once the initial spurt is over the impression is that industrial users will follow a conservative policy in buying for inventory purposes.

- - - -



From Dayton (Ohio) News - March 23 -

**FEW FARMERS SOLD WHEAT AT RECORD PRICE**-Spiralling wheat prices on the Chicago Board of Trade did not line local farmer's pockets with gold nor pad their bank accounts with huge balances, for the simple reason that farmers did not have the wheat to sell when the price was soaring.

This fact was definitely developed by a personal inquiry among farmers, who attended Farm and Home Week at Columbus. More than 200 men of the soil were asked the question, "How much wheat do you have to sell at these high prices?" And almost invariably the answers were the same--"none at all."

The farmers came from all parts of the state. Some from the Miami Valley, some from the central counties and others from northern part of the State.

Of all the persons who were interviewed only one had his 1946 wheat crop. He has 2280 bushels on warehouse receipts. He stated that ever since the federal loans were made available for wheat and other grains he has followed the policy of storing his grain and selling it later.

- - - -

From Chicago News, March 19 -

**ANDERSON USE TELESCOPE'S WRONG END**-Editorial-Another instance of seeing things wrong end to is the complaint in government circles that speculators in grain are responsible for high prices.

If Secretary Anderson would look through the right end of the telescope he would observe that the government itself is responsible for the price gains.

The Commodity Credit Corporation has been buying wheat for foreign shipment and, even though transportation is so bad the wheat cannot be moved, the CCC still refuses to let millers use it. Normally a buyer in the position of the CCC would do that and relieve a tense situation.

Processors and millers suddenly finding their supplies cut off, are obliged to protect themselves by buying futures. Even the government's own statistics as to the increase in the "open interest" show that the speculator has not been other than a minor incidental factor in putting up the price of wheat.

- - - -

From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald-March 23 -

**THE PRICE OF WHEAT**-Editorial-Associated Press Writer Al Dopking toured the Kansas wheat belt and found that farmers were not unanimously pleased about the fact that wheat has gone to \$3 a bushel.

Many agreed with an elevator operator who said: "What I'm afraid of is it will get up there and wham!"

After the last war it was wham! indeed.

During World War I wheat at Kansas City reached a monthly average of \$3.01. In May, 1920, it was still at \$2.93. The break came, and by April 1921, it had dropped to \$1.33. By December 1932, wheat at Kansas City was down to 42 cents.

To attempt to predict the future from the past is always perilous. But it might be well for wheat growers to keep in mind the fact that what does up can come down and try to govern themselves accordingly.

- - - -

Farm Digest 645-47-3

From Nashville (Tenn.) Tennessean, March 19 -

POLICE NEEDED-Editorial - Wheat hit \$3.05 yesterday before it settled back to the previous day's minimum. On its rampage, that grain has been exerting an upward tug on the whole price structure, and a direct inflationary effect on the cost of bread, pastries, animal feed, meat, dairy products, and fats. Riding the upward trend is a host of speculators attracted by the odor of unearned gains.

The South's experience with the speculative boom in cotton, which ended in the market crash of last fall, points the way toward handling the wheat binge. Permanent legislation to give the government the same controls over the produce markets which are now exercised over the stock and bond exchanges is necessary to protect the nation from the damages which the speculator can do.

- - - -

From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 22 -

THE GRAIN HAS TO MOVE-Editorial - While grain prices soar on the markets, due in part at least to the shortage of boxcars to bring in the grain which has been promised, truck lines are running empty to Chicago from the Twin Cities and from the Dakotas into the Twin Cities.

Country elevators are closed in town after town because they are filled with grain. The grain they contain cannot be shipped to terminals for lack of boxcars. Farmers still holding grain on the farm cannot bring that grain into the already full country elevators.

Midwestern railroads contend their boxcars are being held by eastern roads, and the reports on disposition of such cars bear them out.

Stored grain is deteriorating. Another crop is coming up in the southwest and farmers there are becoming alarmed already about the expected shortage of transportation to move it to market. The federal government repeats and repeats the need for grain is tremendous, at home and abroad. . . .

It is time pressure was applied in Washington by the representatives of the midwest in congress to see that something is done.

- - - -

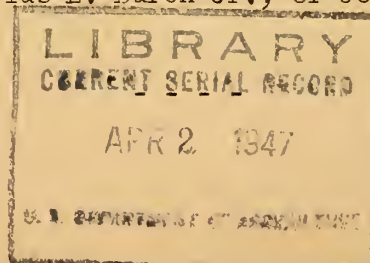
From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, March 22 -

FARMERS SHOUT DOWN SOIL-SAVING PROGRAM- Ruggedly independent farmers of the Eads Community, in a scene reminiscent of an Early American town hall debate, last night shouted against a proposal to let a Government agency control soil conservation work here.

"As long as powder will burn, one muttered, "nobody's going to come on my land and tell me what to do with it."

No vote was taken at the meeting in George R. James School, near the eastern county line. From their attitude, however, an over-whelming majority of the 80 men was against the plan. Five farmers cried out in opposition; only one ventured a mild and hedged-in approval.

The farmers refused a Government offer of "free" heavy land-moving equipment. Use of the surplus machinery depended on county residents' agreement to create a Soil Conservation District, Lucius E. Burch Jr., of Collierville, attorney, told the group.

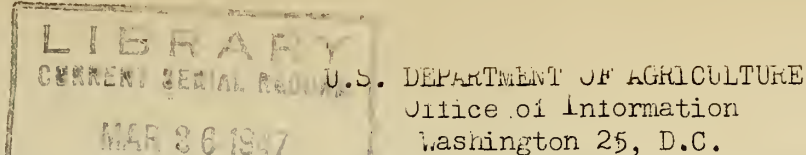


Farm Digest 645-47-4



1.914  
A2D14  
Cap 3

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 24, 1947)



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 24 -

BUSINESS BACKS U.S. IN STAND ON TRADE: TRUMAN CALL FOR FREE SYSTEM / T APRIL PARLEY IN GENEVA WINS GENERAL SUPPORT-Despite much detailed criticism and inner conflict, the American business community as a whole strongly supports the principles and objectives of the Truman Administration's program for the Geneva Conference scheduled to open on April 10.

The conference will bring together the eighteen principal trading nations of the world, outside of Russia, to adopt the charter of an International Trade Organization and to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements.

Business men here expect the principal issue to lie in the fundamental differences between the American concept of freer world trade, with an expanding economy based upon maximum encouragement of free enterprise and competition, and the British and European preference for socialization and cartelization.

-----

\$2 BILLION IN FOOD EXPORTED IN 1946; COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORT PUTS RISE OVER '45 AT 29.5%—CASH PAID FOR 62.5%—Washington—More than \$2,000,000,000 worth of food was exported from this country in 1946, the Department of Commerce reported tonight.

The dollar value, \$2,166,496,000, was 29.5 per cent more than 1945. Of this, \$1,353,579,000, or 62.5 per cent, was paid for in cash while United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and lendlease made up the rest. Only 28.2 percent of 1945 food shipments were paid for in cash.

UNRRA shipments were valued at \$628,493,000 last year, more than double what they were in 1945, but lend lease shipments, valued at \$184,424,000 were less than a fifth of their 1945 total.

Imports of foodstuffs into this country rose to \$1,342,148,000 last year, up 16.2 percent from the previous year.

Among the exports greatest increases in 1946 over 1945 were in meat products, grains and fruits.

-----

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, March 24 -

WORLD WHEAT PACT-Committees of the International Wheat Conference will begin work today on drafting of the proposed world wheat agreement, but as yet Argentina's reaction to setting of a maximum price has not been received, and some observers believe this is essential to success of any agreement.

-----

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, March 24 -

SUGAR-New package differentials on refined sugar were made operative by refiners on Saturday following OPA sanction to the refiners to adjust prices. The increase to better than 6,000,000 tons in estimates for the 1947 Cuban crop is believed to be a factor in House action in cutting the Government control period to October 31, instead of March 31, 1948, as many had expected.

- - - -

FROZEN FOOD OUTLOOK-Frozen foods industry convention and exposition end in San Francisco on an optimistic note, with most trade leaders convinced that the worst of the postwar price chaos in their field is over, and much of the burdensome carryover liquidated. Packers, meanwhile, are curtailing packs in favor of quality, and strengthening their sales position through use of brokers.

- - - -

N.E. POULTRY PRODUCERS ADOPT 5-POINT PROGRAM-Trumansburg, NY.- John V.B. Rice, vice president and New York Director of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, announced today a 5-point NEPPCO legislative program which he said will be taken to Washington for sustained action in cooperation with other poultry organizations.

- - - -

From Wall Street Journal, March 24 -

ANDERSON SEEKS CHANGES IN PARITY FORMULAS TO MEET NEW CONDITIONS: AGRICULTURE SECRETARY CITES CHANGES IN FARMING METHODS AND SHIFTS IN DEMAND SINCE 1914-"Creaks in the joints of the parity system are becoming apparent," writes Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, in today's issue of Barron's, National Business and Financial Weekly.

Since the rather distant base period of 1909-14 the Secretary declares, "production of some grains has become highly mechanized and they can be grown more cheaply now than then. On the other hand, milk and meat cost more to produce, and parity prices would not furnish producers with sufficient returns."

The Secretary says he has proposed to House and Senate committees that parity formulas be changed to take into account technological changes and shifts in demand for farm products. He declares, however, that any changes should not affect carrying our wartime promises to farmer of price support.

Mr. Anderson asserts that Steagall prices (the Steagall amendment to the Price Control Act of 1942 pledges price supports until Dec. 1, 1948) to producers of several farm crops on potatoes and eggs are too high.

He warns farmers that they may face January 1, 1949, with an expanded producing apparatus and a glutted market. Some method must be devised to bring production into line with demand by acreage control, the Secretary concludes. He would do this by positive curbs. He declares against letting prices find their free market level, with the Government making the difference to the farmer.

- - - -



From the Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 16 -

GRAIN BOXCAR LACK CITED; THATCHER BLAMES 'EASTERN HIJACKERS' - The nation is running into a wheat shortage this spring which will be much worse than in the spring of 1946, unless country elevators are furnished boxcars to move the grain to market, M.W. Thatcher, general manager of Farmers Union Grain Terminal association said Saturday.

Thatcher based his warning on the growing volume of telegrams protesting the failure of railroads to deliver boxcars and on a personal trip through Montana and North Dakota.

Thatcher said that while "statistically there is a real shortage of railway cars and the nation needs at least 100,000 new cars to meet traffic requirements, the situation is much worse in the grain areas than in other parts of the nation."

He attributed the present grain crisis to "kidnaping and hijacking" of boxcars by eastern railroads.

- - -

From the Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, March 16 -

FARMER HOLDS MEAT CONTROLS, EXPERT SAYS - Unlimited sources of market information places the farmer in a most favorable position to influence the trend of meat prices, Oscar Swenson, chairman of the state senate agricultural committee, asserted Saturday.

The farmer's ability to regulate the flow of meat animals to market, based on information available, gives him basic control, Swenson said.

- - -

From the Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, March 17 -

PUREBRED HOG RAISERS ANGRY; SAY HYBRID VARIETIES ONLY EXPERIMENTS - Purebred hog associations are leveling their guns at the so-called hybrid hogs which thus far are mostly in the experimental stage.

Thousands of words are being published to show that (1) hybrid hogs are not really hybrids in the same sense that hybrid corn is a hybrid; (2) so-called hybrid hogs have not proved any superiority over purebreds; (3) experiment stations are just wasting their time trying to produce superior types of swine by crossing inbred strains.

Producers of purebreds have an excellent opportunity to prove their case, if their case is sound.

They have only to produce purebreds that are better than any kind of cross-breds.

- - -

From the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, March 18 -

ENRICHING FLOUR - Editorial - Vermont is one of several states in the process of enacting legislation for the enrichment of white flour, in order that bread and other products made with this flour may be more nutritious. This was a federal requirement during the war, but when the federal war powers ended, this was made the responsibility of the States. A bill to provide for this was introduced in the Senate early in the session (S.7) and has passed the Senate. It has been reported that some questions were raised by dairy farmers who feared that it might mean using less milk in bread, but there is really no cause for worry in that regard. No food values already going into bread will be omitted, but the enrichment in the form of vitamins will be added.

From the Boston (Mass.) Herald, March 17 -

THE POTATO CRIME - Editorial - There may be no use in crying over spilt-milk potatoes. But the millions of bushels of spuds that have been destroyed this winter while the ugly edema of hunger bloated the starved tissues of peoples abroad ought to make us wonder whether we did all we could.

Mostly we accept agricultural surpluses in this country as nuisances. The government is already preparing to crack down on growers who exceed the 1947 acreage limitations. But Governor Hildreth of Maine is one who greets surpluses as a challenge. He is pressing for a plan to use a four percent mixture of potato flour with wheat in bread and cake, which would, on a national scale, take care of any surplus. This has been done in the past, and the resulting product is improved, being moister and better keeping. The wheat saved could, if it is more efficient to do so, be sent abroad.

We ought to understand at once that there will never be in the foreseeable future any real world agricultural surpluses.

- - -

From the Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, March 14 -

COTTON CROP INSURANCE FAILURE - Editorial - Inability of the Department of Agriculture to meet payments for losses of half the cotton crop losses last year is an indication either of faulty fundamental planning or grossly inefficient administration of the entire crop insurance program. It is the second time within five years that the crop insurance program has run into difficulty...Now the Agriculture Department reports it lacks \$20,000,000 plus administrative expenses, to cover the cost of the program for last year.

Figures released by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson show that losses on the cotton crop alone last year amounted to more than four times the premiums paid. Such a costly error on the part of a private insurance company probably would throw the firm into bankruptcy and certainly would cause the immediate discharge of the actuary responsible. But an agency of the Government seemingly can operate with the most inexcusable lack of foresight and then come crawling to Congress for an appropriation to make up the deficit.

The cotton farmers who paid for crop insurance hold a bona fide contract with the Government and it is incumbent upon the Government to meet the obligation without expensive delay for the farmers. Meanwhile, Congress should order a thorough investigation of the crop insurance program as a whole and demand that the Secretary of Agriculture place it upon a business basis which will enable the program to cover all contingencies.

- - -

From the Birmingham (Ala.) News--Age--Herald, March 16 -

THE TRUTH AT AUBURN - Editorial - One thing would seem to be beyond question in all the controversy over the Extension Service of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn. It is that the public is in need of more information on the record and activities of this organization.

There are those who say that it is to be taken for granted that the Extension Service does engage in political activity, that everybody familiar with its activities knows that it does, that such activity is to be expected in the nature of things. But this is much too general a comment to provide satisfaction to the people of Alabama. If there is such activity, to what extent does it prevail and of exactly what kind is it? What about the efficiency of the service? These questions are so widespread, so insistent, that more light on the whole subject is urgently needed. Those who maintain that the Extension Service has been unjustly attacked should welcome a fair inquiry as should those who have criticisms and charges to make.

- - -



1.914  
A2014  
DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For March 21, 1947)

LIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAR 26 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, March 21 -

U.S. BARS GRAIN TO YUGOSLAVS; FINDS OTHERS IN GREATER NEED-Washington - The United States has turned down on all counts Yugoslavia's requests for grain to relieve her food needs, the State Department announced today. Under the decision, Yugoslavia will get no relief from the \$350,000,000 appropriation bill now before Congress.

Neither will she be permitted to acquire grain here for several months, if then, either through United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration channels or by outright purchase. . . .

The State Department held that Yugoslavia either was in a position to take care of her own needs or, if this were not entirely the case, she did not stand as a country in "greatest need" and therefore must be passed over.

- - - -

BUMPER CROPS SEEN IN PLANTING PLANS-Washington, (AP) - Another bumper crop production year, topped by what may be the largest wheat crop ever harvested, was forecast today by the Department of Agriculture. The forecast was in a report showing farmers plan to plant slightly larger acreages than during the last two seasons.

- - - -

LOSSES ON CROPS SHOWN; NEW BASIS FOR U. S. INSURANCE FIGURING URGED BY GEISSLER-Washington, (AP) - Reporting that the Government has lost \$67,500,000 on crop insurance, Gus Geissler, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, recommended today that "we retreat to a more nearly experimental basis." He told the House Agriculture Committee the program should be continued, but that it should be determined how to get various crops on a basis where premiums will cover losses.

He suggested that Congress authorize the corporation to figure both premiums and loss payments in either the parity price or support price of covered commodities.

- - - -

PRICE INDEX DROPS WITH FOOD CHEAPER; FIVE-WEEK ADVANCE IS HALTED BY 0.3% DECLINE FOR WEEK ENDED ON MARCH 15-Washington - After five weeks of steady advances, average primary market prices dropped 0.3 per cent because of lower prices for some foods during the week ended March 15, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. . . .

Substantial declines for pork and butter were primarily responsible for a decrease of 2.5 per cent in food prices during the week. On the average foods were 3.5 per cent higher than four weeks earlier and 52.1 per cent above a year ago.

- - - -

(For other items from today's N.Y. Times, turn to page 2.)

Farm Digest 565-47

From New York Times, March 21 (Cont.) -

WHITE HOUSE CANCELS EGG-ROLLING, AS IN WAR, BECAUSE MANY STARVE-Washington - The continued cancellation of the traditional annual White House egg rolling on Easter Monday, which was not held during war times, was announced today by Mrs. James M. Helm, the White House social secretary.

Mrs. Helm said that with so much hunger in the world the White House would not foster "an orgy of wasted eggs."

- - - - -

MILK PRICE WILL STAY UP; SEASONAL DROP IN THIS AREA IS DELAYED A MONTH TO MAY 1-Washington - The Department of Agriculture said today that because of the recent increase in cattle-feeding costs April fluid milk prices for the New York milk shed would be held at the March level until May 1 instead of making the seasonal drop scheduled for April 1.

The order covering minimum producer prices applies also to the other large northeastern markets, Boston, Lowell, Lawrence and Fall River, Mass., so that unequal price relationships would not attract milk from one shed to the other.

These are the continuing prices: New York, 3.5 per cent butterfat, \$4.58 per c.w.t.; Boston, 3.7 per cent butterfat, \$4.77; Lowell-Lawrence, 3.7 per cent butterfat f.o.b. city \$5.21; Fall River, 3.7 butterfat, f.o.b. city \$5.52.

- - - - -

From New York Journal of Commerce - March 21 -

1946 COTTON CROP OVER EXPECTATIONS; CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS 8,513,489 BLS. GINNED IN CURRENT SEASON-Washington - The Census Bureau reported today that 8,513,489 running bales of cotton were produced during the current season in the United States, the shortest crop since 1921. The totals were about 200,000 running bales more than the trade had expected on the basis of the Dec. 1 forecast of 8,316,00 running bales.

- - - - -

SOUTH ALASKA'S VIRGIN TIMBERLANDS REWARD LONG SEARCH FOR NEWSPRINT-Washington - Timberlands of Southeast Alaska will soon be opened to a newsprint industry whose prospects for expanding production elsewhere on the continent are cramped by diminishing forests.

It is known that the Department of Agriculture intends to call for bids on Alaskan timber within a few weeks. Two large United States newsprint concerns, after surveying the site, have indicated their immediate intention to install mills in Alaska.

Names of the two concerns and the financial interests behind the prospective ventures will be announced shortly, when USDA's Forest Service advertises for bids on timber in the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska.

- - - - -

From New York Wall Street Journal, March 21 -

PRICE SUPPORT for farm crops won't be made permanent by this Congress. Present authority expires at the end of 1948. Five such programs now operate, but a price plunge could force the Government to put "floors" under 160-odd commodities. Uncle Sam already owns 22 million pounds of dried eggs, a half million turkeys.

- - - - -



From Lunchburg (Va.) News, Mar. 16 -

**A WISE START** - Editorial - Secretary Anderson, advocating "further corrective measures" to curb "speculative excesses" in the nation's commodity markets, said an investigation by the Agriculture Department's Commodity Exchange Authority of the spectacular cotton market collapse last October shows the need for additional controls.

Secretary Anderson has made only one specific recommendation and that deals with the cotton market. He has asked the Commodity Exchange Commission to limit speculative holdings of individual traders to 30,000 bales of cotton in all futures combined. Present regulations permit 30,000 bales in each future. The commission, which is composed of the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce and the Attorney General, is expected to approve this new limitation soon.

Secretary Anderson in making his recommendation concerning the cotton market has not acted hastily. He has awaited the findings of a board of experts. The News believes the Secretary is on the right track. He should direct his department's Commodity Exchange Authority to make studies in other commodity fields and submit the results for consideration.

Margin trading can become like a run-away steed quickly. Unless the reins are tightened a runaway horse can plunge over the precipice.

- - - -

From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, Mar. 17 -

**15-CENT BREAK AND \$3 WHEAT** - Editorial - Throughout most of the country bread prices have just gone up a cent a loaf. The old nickel loaf of lamented memory thus recedes farther into history.

Dearer bread cuts a considerable hole in the food budget of large families with low incomes. They are the big bread eaters of the country.

The price is a direct reflection of wheat prices. Recently wheat has been selling for cash at \$2.75 a bushel in Chicago, up 63 cents since the first of the year, and almost a dollar in the last twelve months.

For farmers with wheat stored in bins or elevators or even under Government loans, this gain means almost unprecedented prosperity. Rarely have wheat prices been higher. In May, 1917, they touched \$3.01 a bushel at Kansas City, and in May, 1920, \$2.93. These prices contrasted with 42 cents in December, 1932, a figure that meant about 30 cents on the farm and caused some farmers to burn wheat rather than market it.

- - - -

From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Mar. 14 -

**KEEP HOT LUNCH PLAN** - Editorial - The determination of Memphis and Shelby County school authorities to continue the "hot lunch program" for school children is reassuring.

Perhaps the responsibility for such a program rests on the local level instead of through Federal aid, but the important thing is that it will be continued. We long have been suspicious of Federal handouts, for usually they are accompanied by a "papa fix" bureaucrat who wants everything in sight. The school lunch assistance did not seem to be thus burdened, and it probably will mean a loss to children in communities where the school administrators are less sensitive to the pupil's dietary needs and less resolute in going about getting aid.

- - - -

From Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald, Mar. 14 -

**THE SUGAR MUDDLE** - Editorial - Rep. Albert J. Engel of Muskegon, justifiably concerned for the fruit and vegetable growers of his district, whose products go to waste for lack of sugar for canning, calls attention to some glaring inequities in distribution.

The 40 per cent increase in the household sugar ration -- from 25 pounds to 35 pounds for each person -- looks generous, he points out, but it is like "giving a person a dime instead of a nickel when he needs 50 cents for a meal." He was talking about the increase that gives the home consumer an extra 10 pounds, but takes away the extra 10 pounds ration for home canning which was given in past years.

The family which puts up its own canned fruits gains nothing.

The family which buys commercially canned fruit gains 10 pounds a person.

Mr. Engel goes part way in approaching a solution when he proposes an extra 10-pound canning ration for bona fide farm residents. He will hear protests from many City residents on that score, for many a housewife prefers her own canned peaches and cherries and what not to the variety that comes from grocery shelves in tins.

- - - - -

From Grand Rapids Press, Mar. 18 -

**PONDER U. S. SPUD REPORT** - Will the federal report on March 1 potato holdings have the same effect upon the tuber deal as the Jan. 1 report had on the onion deal?

That question was pondered by members of the west Michigan potato trade attending Tuesday's quiet session of the city wholesale market.

Dealers and growers recalled how the union market put on a year-end spurt in price values and then abruptly turned bearish upon release of a federal report showing Jan. 1 holdings to be allegedly larger than stocks actually in storage. The union producers charged the government with making a "bum" guess.

Grand Rapids potato handlers hoped the same bearish development would not take place in the tuber deal. There was a feeling that federal statisticians may have been more careful in their latest estimate, after having been taken to task by the onion growers.

- - - - -

From Nashville Tennessean, Mar. 16 -

**ELOQUENT DOLLARS** - Editorial - In Robertson County there are fifty-four farm operators who bought their farms under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Purchase Act. During 1946 these tenant purchase borrowers made an average payment of \$1,000 on their loans.

Granted that conditions are very favorable for agricultural loan repayment, these are still eloquent dollars.

Because of its limited operation, the tenant purchase law has been no more than an experiment to determine if the evil of tenantry can be eliminated. Tested in a small way in most of the counties of the nation, the law has been a most successful experiment.

It has opened the way for a land program on a gigantic scale. Certain changes should of course be made in the bigger program. The test program has shown that the interest rate is too high and that the duration of the loan should be extended to counteract the effects of a depression.

- - - - -